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Clinton, PM aim to restart peace

By HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday discussed what Netanyahu described as "very crude and preliminary ideas" on reinvigorating the peace process.
Netanyahu refused to say whether he made any promises on creating or expanding settlements. "I just restated our principles — building in Har Homa will continue and building in settlements will continue."
He said he has never negated the possibility of building new settlements, but added that he has made "no decisions on that yet."
On his proposal to advance the final status talks, Netanyahu said he prefers "to leave these ideas to the US's clarifications. I think that US had a real interest in advancing the idea. I recommend leaving it to them for maneuvering room."
Following their two-hour meeting, Netanyahu told Israeli reporters he had not yet given Clinton a firm response on the ideas raised, but hopes the conditions will be ripe for the talks to resume.
Netanyahu stated that the US agrees with the Israeli position that the Palestinians must fight against terrorism in a manner that is "not sporadic, but continuous."

Prior to their meeting, Clinton was asked about Netanyahu's remarks before a Christian-Jewish group. Voices United for Israel, that Israel would not make certain gestures to the Palestinians like opening a safe passage or air and sea ports simply to be free of terrorism.
"I agree that freedom from terrorism is something that no one should have to purchase. I think it should be a pre-condition. We have to have a secure environment, and terror is wrong," Clinton said. "Having said that, I think then the question is how do we actually have an honorable negotiating process which will lead to a peace that the parties can fully, indeed, wholeheartedly embrace."
Clinton also called a Camp David-like summit with Netanyahu and Arafat "pre-mature... until we can get this thing back on track again... I wouldn't rule out anything, but I think it's important that we not put form over substance here. We need to know where we are going."

Israeli officials said afterward that both Israel and the US agree that if terrorism continues, plans for the next steps in negotiations will be rendered meaningless.
"I will be the first to bless a change by the Palestinians. We want to see if the steps taken are real and meaningful. We cannot have a negotiation while terror is ongoing," Netanyahu said.
The Clinton-Netanyahu meeting lasted twice as long as scheduled, with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the prime minister's adviser Dore Gold participating in the first half, followed by a one-on-one meeting of the leaders.
Netanyahu insisted that no pressure was applied at yesterday's session.
Netanyahu and Albright were also due to meet last night, prior to his departure, to discuss whether the time is right for her first visit to the region.
Prior to the White House meeting, US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) that "neither the US nor anyone else is going to impose an outcome here."
He added that the US has to find a way to "reinvigorate that core understanding" of Palestinian autonomy in exchange for elimi-



PM Binyamin Netanyahu shakes hands with US President Bill Clinton during their meeting in the Oval Office yesterday. (Reuters)

Dolev man shoots two Palestinians after his car was stoned

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and JON IMMAMUEL
A resident of Dolev, north of Ramallah, shot and wounded two Palestinians in the village of Harbata, after his car was hit by stones there yesterday morning.
According to Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan, police arrested the father of five after he returned home early yesterday evening. They confiscated his car and his M-16 rifle.
Sivan said the man, whose name

has not been released, was driving through Harbata, on the outskirts of Ramallah, when stones were thrown at his car. He got out and fired a warning shot in the air, then continued driving.
One hundred meters further along, his car was stoned again. The man fired at the stone throwers from the right-hand side window and continued driving. Iyad Salah Hamuda, 23, was shot in the chest and was in serious condition at Ramallah Hospital last night; his friend, Jamal Ibrahim Salah,

27, was injured in the leg.
According to Police Cmdr. Yossi Sidbon, Salah did not suffer gunshot wounds, but fell when running to aid Hamuda.
Shortly after the incident, IDF troops and police arrived to investigate the shooting.
Residents of Harbata claim a settler known to them drove into the village and started firing shots. They claim that Hamuda and Salah were walking along the road and had nothing to do with the stone-throwing.

Ahmed Mahdi said the settler entered the village at 8:30 a.m., as schoolchildren were returning home after finding their teachers were on strike. When they saw the settler, they began throwing stones. The settler got out of his car, knelt on one knee, and opened fire above their heads. They all dropped to the ground to protect themselves.
Mahdi said he then got back into his car and drove on. His car was

Continued on Page 5

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Winning cards
International mayors conference opens in capital

By Jerusalem Post Staff

NEWS

in brief

22 lightly hurt when bus overturns

Twenty-two passengers were lightly injured when a driver on Egged Bus No. 400 going from Givatayim to Jerusalem lost control of the bus near the Ganot Junction, and the bus skidded and overturned on the shoulder.

Three MDA ambulances and two mobile intensive care units took the injured to Sheba and Assaf Harofeh hospitals. As a result of the accident, the road was closed for a time, causing traffic jams.

Shortly after the bus accident and only a few dozen meters away, a chain collision occurred after a truck hit two cars. Four people suffered light injuries. *Itm*

Israeli Arab beauty queen named

Rozana Alqus Shahin, 16, of Ma'alot-Tarshiha, is the 1997 Israeli Arab beauty queen. She is a singer and a music enthusiast.

After winning the contest Sunday night, Shahin expressed hope that next year there would be a joint Arab-Jewish beauty contest. *Jerusalem Post Staff*



2 injured in bus stonings in eastern Jerusalem

Two passengers suffered light injuries when two buses were stoned near the Old City's Damascus Gate yesterday. The stones broke windows on both buses, No. 13 and No. 174, and two passengers suffered injuries from broken glass. Police launched searches for the perpetrators, but did not arrest any suspects.

In another incident yesterday, a driver was lightly injured by broken glass when his car was stoned as he exited the tunnel road near Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood. *Itm*

Uzbekistan upgrades diplomatic mission

Uzbekistan has decided to upgrade its diplomatic mission here to an embassy, visiting Foreign Minister Abdel Aziz Kamilov said yesterday, after a working lunch with Foreign Minister David Levy. He also announced that Uzbek President Islam Karimov would pay an official visit later this year, and the two signed an agreement on cultural cooperation. *Itm*

Islamic Jihad threatens more attacks

Islamic Jihad said yesterday they would carry out more suicide attacks against Jewish settlers in response to the construction of a Har Homa in southeastern Jerusalem.

"Zionist settlers, no matter where in our Palestinian land, will not be safe from our weapons and our human bombs," the Islamic Jihad group said in a leaflet sent to news organizations.

The leaflet was signed, Kassam, the name of Islamic Jihad's military wing. *AP*

PA police apprehend car thieves

The Palestinian Police helped capture two men suspected of stealing dozens of Israeli cars and transferring them to the territories in exchange for weapons, it was revealed in Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday, when the two were remanded for seven days. *Itm*

Islamic List wins Hebron U. election

By JON IMMANUEL

Supporters of the Islamic list at Hebron University whooped "Allahu Akbar" and threw candies when it won the student council elections yesterday, but supporters of Yasser Arafat were also silently pleased they hadn't done even worse.

The election, the first at the university under Palestinian Authority rule, gave the combined Hamas-Islamic Jihad list 53 percent of the vote and the pro-Arafat Fatah (the Shabiba) 40%. A list supporting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine won 3%. Other votes went to smaller groups or were invalid.

Its absolute majority means that the Islamic List takes complete control of the 11-seat council. For the past three years, there had been an Islam-dominated joint council. Seats in the larger general assembly are divided 19, 15, and one for the PFLP; 1,322 valid votes were cast.

For Khalil Nimr and everyone else, "This election was about the political situation,

not about student problems. Most students disagree with the peace process, including myself," Nimr said nothing had changed, despite the fact that 80% of Hebron is now in the hands of the PA. "Two weeks ago a friend of mine lost four teeth when an Israeli soldier's rubber bullet hit him in the mouth."

The situation looked so bad for Fatah three days ago that the Shabiba brought in popular local Palestinian Council member Mohammed Hourani. He gave a rousing speech to great applause, but did not try to persuade students that the peace process was worthwhile.

"If the Oslo agreement means surrender," Hourani said, "it can go to hell."

"I am upset to see that the factions did not address student issues. The slogans were really very radical. In two weeks, I think we will see American flags burning on this campus," said Dr. Nabil Abu Zneid, the university spokesman, who announced the results. "This is not just a reaction, but a gradual building up of support for Islam. If

the peace process fails, it will be very difficult to repair it."

Hamas has done well in a series of recent elections, winning the staff union ballot at An-Najah university in Nablus two weeks ago for the first time, and 65% of the vote at the Hebron Polytechnic. It won engineer association elections in the West Bank and Gaza, and later this week, it is the turn of students at Bir Zeit University to have their say.

As Abu Zneid spoke on the second floor of the main campus building, a few young men knelt down in the university quadrangle for afternoon prayers. They were joined by more young men and still more, until they filled up half the area, a compact mass next to dozens of scattered shabiba with no unifying message.

Mohammed Abdallah, a fourth year Arabic literature student and one of the Islamic candidates, said there is no plan to Islamize the university, which despite common perceptions, and its women students' covered heads, is not an Islamic college.

"But we cannot ignore the circumstances. There is still occupation."

All election posters were to have been taken down on election day, but several remained, including pictures of Arafat and Islamic Jihad martyrs, those assassinated of Islamic Jihad martyrs, those assassinated of Islamic Jihad martyrs, those assassinated of Islamic Jihad martyrs.

A leaflet issued in the name of Islamic Jihad yesterday threatened more suicide attacks, and its timing on election day cannot be ruled out.

Abdel Jabbar Abu Sneh, a second year business administration candidate, had resigned himself, before results were declared, to a 40% Fatah share of the vote. "What can I say, I support the peace process, but Oslo is difficult to defend these days."

How much does the student election reflect general attitudes? A poll conducted by a Hebron University professor last week in the Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron areas showed only 40% in favor of continuing negotiations with Israel, a drastic drop from earlier polls.



Right-wing activists, including the Women in Green, demonstrate opposite the American Consulate in Jerusalem yesterday to protest against pressure being applied by President Bill Clinton on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during their meeting yesterday. *(Brian Henders)*

B'Tselem blasts Israel's 'deportation' of Jerusalem Arabs

Human rights group says housing shortage forces departure

By JON IMMANUEL

The B'Tselem human rights organization yesterday accused the Israeli governments over the past 18 months of implementing a policy which takes away the right to live in Jerusalem from hundreds or thousands of Palestinians who were born there.

The Interior Ministry countered B'Tselem's charges, contained a report released yesterday, with a 20-page transcript of High Court proceedings concerning a case brought by a Palestinian resident of Jerusalem. In that case the Palestinian was considered a "permanent resident" under the Law of Entry into Israel and nothing more.

Noting that Jerusalem residents have the right to apply for Israeli citizenship, the Interior Ministry statement said, "those who have not taken citizenship fall under the regulations concerning all other permanent residents (Americans, Russians, English etc.) who live in the state of Israel."

B'Tselem's 43-page report, entitled "The Quiet Deportation," says that "Viewing East Jerusalem residents as foreigners who entered Israel is perplexing since it was Israel that entered East Jerusalem in 1967. The perception of East Jerusalem's residents as immigrants residing in their homes pursuant to the beneficence of Israel and not by right is the 'original sin,' which currently enables the

authorities to deport them from their homes."

The Interior Ministry's position has meant that any Jerusalem resident who has moved out of the city for seven years automatically loses his right of residence in the city. This means he loses his Jerusalem identity card, which enables him to enter Jerusalem to work.

The reason why thousands of Jerusalem Arabs have chosen to live outside the city borders is in any case not voluntary, but the result of Israeli building policies. "In comparison with the massive construction for the Jewish population few buildings were constructed for Palestinians," B'Tselem notes. Some 64,870 dwellings were built mostly by public construction for Israelis and 8,890 for Palestinians, most by private construction, it says.

"As a result of this policy the housing shortage among the Palestinian population currently exceeds 20,000 housing units." This has also raised Jerusalem rental prices in Arab areas.

The Interior Ministry estimates that 600 Palestinians have lost their Israeli identity cards by living outside Jerusalem or by taking foreign, often US, citizenship.

B'Tselem estimates that 70,000 Palestinians with Israeli identity cards live outside Jerusalem and therefore could lose their residency rights.

ANALYSIS

Israel-PA gap forces US to fill the void

By MARK HELLER

One of the less edifying aspects of Bill Clinton's presidency has been his practice of hosting guests in the White House in return for contributions. It is not clear that any exception was made for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu didn't have to pay to get in, but there was surely a price for getting out. It hasn't been revealed yet, but it presumably involves some kind of response to Clinton's statement that the purpose of the meeting was "where we're going" and to work out an "agreed-upon destination."

The reason this response can be described as a "price" is that it is the sort of thing an Israeli prime minister should ideally work out with his government colleagues, the Israeli public, and his Arab negotiating partners, rather than with the president of the United States.

In fact, one of the few instincts all Israeli governments have shared since 1967 has been to engage the Arabs directly and to minimize the involvement of outsiders, including the United States, on the assumption that bilateral negotiations may pro-

duce, not only better terms, but also — and even more importantly — a firmer commitment by both parties to whatever agreement is reached.

Of course, it has never been possible to do without the US, especially at the point at which principles had to be translated into concrete arrangements. But one of the major accomplishments of previous governments was the ability to negotiate with Arab partners while limiting the American role to one of active support.

One of the major shortcomings of this government has been its inability to continue to do this with the Palestinians. After the violence that followed the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit, the US, against its own better judgment, was forced to shift from facilitator to mediator. That is certainly the most charitable description of a country whose ambassador hosted the Hebron negotiations in his home and whose peace process coordinator took three calls from Netanyahu during the cabinet debate on the next stage of redeployment.

The dispute over Har Homa may force the US to shift roles again, this time from mediator to arbitrator. That is clearly implied by those American editors and analysts who have been urging the administration to do precisely what Clinton now says he wants to do: work out "where we're going."

Administration spokesmen and others repeatedly insist that this does not mean pressure on Israel or an imposed settlement. What it does mean, however, is the prospect of a more explicit definition than ever of what the US thinks a final-status agreement should look like. This will not be the same as Netanyahu's definition of what the final-status agreement should look like, and efforts by Israel and others to shape that definition will inevitably lead to tensions.

But in this struggle, Israel should still enjoy some built-in advantages, like a sympathetic Jewish community able to influ-

ence Congress and public opinion, and a prime minister who has spent almost as much time in America as in Israel and who is supposed to understand the US inside-out.

All the more surprising, then, that Netanyahu has gratuitously insulted Conservative and Reform Judaism and thus risked alienating over two-thirds of American Jewry, just when he is about to find out how important they really are.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

NOTICE

Most government offices will be closed on Pessah, from Monday, April 21, 1997, until Monday, April 28, 1997 (inclusive). Those offices will not be open to the public during that period, except in emergencies.

A list of which offices will be closed, and details of emergency services, will be published before Pessah.

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הקדמת הכתוב

IN CONTEXT

Fire shattered anonymity of secret plant

By NERD KENON

Like many top secret installations around the world, except those in spy thrillers, Israel Aircraft Industries' Malim missile plant in Be'er Ya'acov is tucked into a residential community.

One drives past the plant, whose anonymity was shattered by Sunday's fire there, without taking notice. True, there is a well-protected gate, and double rows of barbed wire fence, but the factory's offices fronting the road look no different than any number of other innocuous buildings. The plant itself is hidden by rows of giant eucalyptus trees.

Yet yesterday, this plant was variously billed in the newspapers as the "secret missile plant" and "IAI's most secret factory." So secret, in fact, that Yoav Rafael, the Be'er Ya'acov Local Council head, had never been inside the plant, only the offices, until last night.

And this is something that Rafael is intent on changing. The fire, which caused one slight injury, has led some of the 7,000 residents of Be'er Ya'acov - just west of Lod - to wonder what is being produced a few hundred meters from their doors, and whether it endangers them.

Foreign press reports say the plant is where the Arrow and Jericho missiles are being pro-

duced, and where the missile that launched the Ofek 3 satellite was created.

Few in the country, except perhaps those who read *Jane's Defense Weekly*, would have known that, had it not been for Sunday's fire. Sensitive installations such as these seem to come to the public attention only following disasters or security breaches.

The sensitivity of the plant was not a complete secret.

"The plant is so secret, no one knows what's going on inside, and that worries me," Rafael said. "I am very concerned, because it sits in the heart of a town I am responsible for. Since no one has told me what to do in case of a disaster, or what type of material is being handled, I am worried. I have no contingency plans."

Rafael has sent a telegram to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai demanding a meeting to discuss the matter. He said that if he gets no satisfaction, the town will strike for a couple of hours tomorrow, and a struggle to close or move the factory will begin.

"I'm not asking to know everything about what is going on inside, but one person in the town has to know what to do in case of a disaster," he said.

The fire, which was reported to have been caused by a welder working in a storehouse containing "metals, paints, chemicals, and

glues," sent thick, black smoke billowing into the air.

An investigating committee yesterday began looking into the cause of the fire, which reportedly caused millions of dollars of damage.

Across from the plant, in an up-scale neighborhood of large houses and barking dogs, resident Yoram Lev said that had he known what was inside the plant, he might have thought twice before moving into the neighborhood.

But now, he said, "It doesn't overly concern me. I imagine that the Defense Ministry knows the plant is in the middle of a residential district, and has taken the precautions."

"What are we going to do," said Moshe Gal, who was born in this now sprawling town which still retains a rural feel. "The fire scared me at first, but then they said it was nothing, so I stopped worrying."

Another veteran Be'er Ya'acov resident, Nissim Avraham, who is retired from IAI's Lod plant, said he does not think the local council head should have knowledge of what is going on inside Malim.

"This must be a tight secret," he said, clenching his fist to illustrate just how tight. "No one should know what is going on there; you can't trust anyone in this country."

Arafat calls for UN emergency session

Secretary-General: It is quite possible

NEW DELHI (AP) - Following an appeal by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, the UN secretary general said yesterday the General Assembly may meet in an emergency session to discuss the Middle East deadlock.

Arafat said he sought a meeting of the General Assembly because the United States had vetoed two Security Council resolutions in 10 days that were critical of Israel.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan, attending a meeting of Nonaligned Movement countries in the Indian capital, said "it is quite possible" that the assembly would convene in special session.

"Arafat's request has been circulated among member-states," he told a news conference after he addressed the foreign ministers' conference. Half the United Nations members must agree before the assembly can be summoned to an



Yasser Arafat (Reuters)

Assembly meeting to consider action to force Israel to abide by its obligations.

Arafat, speaking as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was in the United States for talks with US President Bill Clinton, made no mention of the Israeli demand that he take tough steps to end terrorist operations against Israelis.

He denounced Israel's heightened security measures and its plan to build a new housing project in southeastern Jerusalem.

"The Israeli aggressive measures and acts, its tight security measures, and the military mobilization imposed on the Palestinian lands are equal to a declaration of war, not only on the Palestinian people but also on the peace process," Arafat told the representatives of the 113-member movement.

emergency meeting, he said.

Arafat, a surprise speaker at the same conference, earlier accused Israel of declaring war on the Palestinians and on the peace process. He urged the meeting to support his call for a General

IDF: Home sealing deters terror

By URIEL HELLMAN and Hani

OC Home Front Command Maj-Gen. Shmuel Arad said yesterday the High Court of Justice should reject a petition by four families of Hamas terrorists against his order to seal their homes, since this serves as a deterrent to future attacks.

In an affidavit to the court, Arad said his move against the families of the four terrorists - who were involved in assisting and planning the suicide bombings in Ashkelon and Jerusalem last year - would act to deter the terror organizations from carrying out additional attacks.

He said there have been warnings of impending terror attacks to be carried out by the various terror organizations.

Arad noted that only the parts of the family homes in which the terrorists lived would be sealed off and the structures would not be destroyed, in order not to harm others in the buildings.

The four terrorists are eastern Jerusalem residents who provided the suicide bombers with Israeli identity cards, vehicles, and use of their homes to carry out the attacks.

Without this assistance, Arad said, the terror attacks would not

have occurred, since the suicide bombers were all residents of the territories who were barred from entering Israel.

Meanwhile, a terror expert said yesterday that the question about terrorism is not "if it's going to happen, but when it's going to happen."

Prof. Yonah Alexander, director of the Washington-based Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies, was speaking at a news conference along with former ambassador to the US Zalman Shoval and former Labor MK Shimon Shetreet.

Alexander said that in the future the international community will need to cope with three types of terrorism: primitive terrorism, such as stone-throwing and suicide bombings; spectacular terrorism, such as the World Trade Center bombing; and super-terrorism, which includes biological, chemical, and nuclear attacks.

"We have to think in terms of tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, maybe even millions [of casualties]," he said, at the same time warning that panic is the wrong response.

"Only a united international struggle against terrorism will be able to bring it 'to manageable

levels." According to the center, the Middle East ranks third in regional terrorism and Israel ranks 13th in countries that suffer from terrorism.

Shetreet, asserting that "terrorism can pose a strategic threat both on local and international levels," cautioned that Israel has, over the past 20 years, upset the balance of liberty and security, thereby leading to lapses in security, such as the Bus 300 affair and the Rabin assassination.

Shoval said that in light of recent terrorism in Israel, there cannot be parallel tracks of negotiation and terrorism in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Had the recent foiled bombing attack in Netzarim succeeded in taking the lives of dozens of school children, he said, the peace process would have been damaged beyond repair.

Calling the Palestinian leadership "short-sighted and irresponsible," Shoval rejected the possibility of any comparison between construction at Har Homa and Palestinian terrorism. "The Palestinians will have to make up their minds," he insisted. "Do they want to live in peace with us or do they not want to live in peace with us."

Peace Now gives settlement icy reception

Settlers: Thanks for dropping in

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Two-and-a-half tons of ice separated a handful of Peace Now activists and settlers from Sha'arei Tikva yesterday morning, when the organization staged a demonstration at the settlement calling for a freeze on construction in Judea and Samaria.

According to Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari, the movement chose Sha'arei Tikva for the protest because construction plans for 45 houses in the settlement were approved during the past two weeks.

Greeting the activists, who had brought the bags of ice with them, were a small group of settlers from Sha'arei Tikva and Elkana Local Council Head Nisan Smoliansky.

"I praised Peace Now for crossing the Green Line and invited them to visit Elkana, just nearby, but they refused," said Smoliansky.

He said that Peace Now recently claimed that 11% of the houses in Elkana were empty and he was keen to show them they were mistaken. "There isn't an empty house in the settlement," he added.

Sha'arei Tikva responded with a statement claiming that all the land belonging to the settlement was purchased from area Arabs and was not expropriated. Moreover, the statement said, the government didn't invest any money in the settlement, unlike in the kibbutzim and in suburbs such as Ramat Aviv, built on land confiscated from the Arabs.

Laughing at Peace Now's latest gimmick, Smoliansky said that rather than representing a freeze on settlements, ice eventually melts into water, seeps into the ground and waters the plants that will eventually grow.

"That is how I envisage the current settlement freeze: It's a



Peace Now activists dump ice near the settlement of Sha'arei Tikva, to illustrate their demand for a freeze on construction in the territories. (AP)

process that has already started to melt," he said.

Meanwhile, the settlement of Eli announced that 42 homes had

been sold there in recent weeks. According to the settlement's secretary, Dov Odeser, there are an additional 150 units that the

settlement just got government approval to sell. These units, said Odeser, received building permits in 1992.

New 'Jewish values' political group launched

By LIAT COLLINS

Last night's inaugural meeting of a new social-political movement at Jerusalem's Beit Agron started late to allow the men the finish evening prayers.

This set the tone for the meeting in which the Jewish Leadership Movement was officially born.

The guiding principles behind the movement, according to Prof. Hillel Weiss, are based on the precept of "all Jews are responsible for one another," and of taking the initiative to create change based on Jewish values.

All of speakers stressed the need for unity among the Jewish

people, and for the state to be Jewish in content as well in name.

"We are not a religious movement," said Moti Karpel. "We were not founded to demand more funds for yeshivot or a specific sector, but to establish a leader for the whole Jewish people."

He said the movement hopes to field a candidate in the next elections.

Karpel denied that the movement is right wing, although the gathering was attended by several people who have been held in administrative detention for rightist activities.

Eddie Lahavi, a non-religious Jew, who addressed the crowd of

some 150 people, called for an effort on both sides to repair the religious-secular divide and

voiced barbed criticism of religious political leaders who do not behave morally.

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Weizman: No Israel Prize for Schnitzer

Education Minister Hammer refuses to rule out award to journalist

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and ISIM

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday refused to rule out going ahead with awarding the Israel Prize for Journalism to *Ma'ariv* columnist Shmuel Schnitzer, provided Schnitzer states clearly that remarks made about Ethiopian immigrants in a column were not intended to hurt "an entire community which is very important to us."

In the August 1994 column, entitled "Importing Death," Schnitzer referred to Ethiopian immigrants as "thousands of apostates" carrying dangerous diseases.

Earlier, President Ezer Weizman told Schnitzer he would not award him the prize unless he apologized for or retracted the remarks.

According to Arye Shumer, director-general of Beit Hanassi, Schnitzer told Weizman that he would not retract the remarks, and "if the result is that I must give up the prize, I will give it up."

Weizman then responded: "So you've given it up." He then called Hammer to inform him of the conversation.

"For now, Mr. Schnitzer has given up the prize. His article was very problematic, and it's a shame that it was published," Weizman said.

However, in an interview yesterday with Israel Radio, Schnitzer insisted: "I didn't give it up, the

prize was taken away from me." "The president attached a condition to this prize, and I don't accept prizes with conditions attached. I rejected the condition, so I don't have a prize."

Asked why he wasn't willing to apologize, Schnitzer said: "I'm not sorry about a single word I wrote, and I'm not prepared to lie."

"I think in order to be sorry, you need to feel regret, and I don't regret it," he added.

In the interview, Schnitzer indicated that he only opposed bringing Ethiopians he believes are not Jews - an apparent reference to the Falash Mura - to Israel. He said that they were the ones who carried the diseases he said also ruled out their being allowed to enter under the Law of Return.

"I lived a long time without the Israel Prize, and I suppose I'll survive a few more years without it," he said.

But Schnitzer also said last night that he would relate to the whole controversy in his column on Friday in *Ma'ariv*.

"If this will help or not, this is what I will do," he said.

Hammer told Israel Radio he was "sorry about the whole affair," and said he had been unaware of the "very problematic" column. He said he had asked Schnitzer to make a clarifying statement and "I understand he is ready to do this."



Zevulun Hammer

"I very much hope he will do so," Hammer said. He asked that Schnitzer be given some time to do so, adding: "The prize isn't being awarded tonight." The Israel Prizes are presented annually on Independence Day.

Labor MK Adisu Massala had petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday morning against Schnitzer's receiving the prize, citing what he called the "racist" article.

He asked that the prize committee reconsider its decision, noting that Press Council ethics panel had ruled Schnitzer had violated journalistic ethics by publishing the column. Such a person is not worthy of receiving such a prize, he argued in the petition.

Massala said he was later told by Weizman that "Schnitzer gave up the prize."

Massala praised the president for his intervention, but criticized

Hammer for not doing more about the matter. He said he would continue to pursue the petition to ensure that Schnitzer did not receive the prize at some other time.

He called yesterday's developments "a triumph for all of Israeli society," but said the Ethiopian community would continue to fight "all the Schnitzers who have not yet come forward."

Officer who slighted Ethiopian soldier faces dismissal

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Maj. Michael Valitzkin, who tried to prevent an Ethiopian-born soldier from receiving medical treatment and told him the clinic was "off-limits to *kashims* [blacks]," faces dismissal from the army.

Valitzkin was severely reprimanded for the January incident, but the public outcry over the slur has prompted the army to review Valitzkin's position in the IDF.

Northern Command has ordered Valitzkin, a brigade ordnance officer on the Golan Heights, to report to the military committee that reviews contracts. It will determine whether he will continue to serve in the IDF, the army said.

The army said that the hearing will be a "clarification" of the incident.

Valitzkin, an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, has said he was on friendly terms with Cpl. Avi Asemare and only made the comments in jest. Asemare, however, was deeply insulted and so hurt he didn't even bother to file a complaint. A complaint was filed by another soldier.

Asemare met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu last week, and the incident brought the IDF leadership to publicly declare its appreciation and support for the Ethiopian immigrant soldiers.

Doctors advise gene tests for fatal heart defect

By JUDY SIEGEL

Tragedies such as the sudden death of a Hapoel Taiba soccer player Wahib Jbara can be prevented if families carrying defective genes for cardiomyopathies are identified through genetic and physical tests, according to a senior Bikur Holim Hospital cardiologist.

Prof. Andre Keren, associate head of the Jerusalem hospital's cardiology department, said cardiologists here have established the Israeli Shared Action for the Advancement of Research of Cardiomyopathies (ISAAC).

He said that most of his counterparts around the country have agreed to establish a privacy-protected computerized data base listing all those who have died of the condition and to encourage collaborative research on cardiomyopathies.

Keren said that it was agreed Bikur Holim would coordinate the project, which has applied to the Health Ministry's chief scientist's office for a grant. He estimated that the project would cost hundreds of thousands of shekels and need support from sports organizations and various foundations as well.

Jbara, the 23-year-old soccer player from Hapoel Taiba who died sud-

denly on Friday, was apparently an example of the one in 500 Israelis suffering from the hereditary condition. Only the minority die of it at a young age (from teens through their 30s), said Prof. Eran Leitersdorf, an internal medicine specialist at Hadassah-University Hospital.

The four genes responsible for sudden death in people under the age of 35 or 40 due to cardiomyopathies (defects in the heart muscle) were discovered only in the last few years. Since testing is expensive, mass screening is impractical, requiring attention to focus on families in which such incidents have occurred.

For the project to succeed, families of victims should be encouraged to agree to all post mortem examinations to determine the exact cause of death and test for the genes, and then, if positive, the families should be tested, according to Keren.

If an individual is identified as suffering from the genetic problem, it is often possible to prevent death with regular examinations and treatments.

Since sportsmen are very often the victims of sudden death due to their massive physical efforts, sports organizations should be interested in contributing to the establishment of the ISAAC project, Keren said.

Negev residents want dump site cleaned up

The toxic waste dump at Ramat Hovav poses a danger to public health, and must be cleaned up, modernized, and made accountable to one of the area's local or regional councils, Negev residents demanded yesterday, at a Beersheba press conference that opened a campaign to reform management of the site.

According to members of the action committee, headed by Ramat Negev Regional Council chairman Shmuel Rifman, the dump is now under the auspices of an "industrial regional council" that is independent of any

elect and accountable entity.

Beersheba city manager Yossi Sheli told reporters that when a chemical leak occurred at the site last month, a Ramat Hovav worker who is a friend of his called him and advised him to "take the children and flee to Tel Aviv," for fear the leak would endanger Beersheba residents. Workers at the site were able to limit the chemical's spread, however, and damage was minimal.

Some 50,000 tons of toxic organic and non-organic waste reach Ramat Hovav every year. (Iim)

Arab, Israeli kindergarten children set peaceful example

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

While US President Bill Clinton was busy trying to impress the need to share upon Israeli and Palestinian leaders, four-year-olds Itai, Farnuz, Shani, Tomer, Majaz, and Bashra, of Jerusalem's Peace Kindergarten, were showing they had already learned that lesson.

The Israeli and Palestinian youngsters were all lined up and sharing the lyrics of a song, as they awaited visitors from Switzerland and elsewhere to celebrate the inauguration of their unusual kindergarten in the capital's YMCA yesterday.

Since opening at the beginning of the school year, the kindergarten, which has 24 children, evenly divided between Jews and Arabs, has been busy teaching the youngsters to "know the other," director Dafna Bassewitsch-Ginzburg explained.

The children learn both Arabic and Hebrew, about each other's cultures and religions, and "know there are differences, but many things in common," she said.

"What's also great is the interaction of the parents," she added, which includes home visits and a bilingual workshop featuring parents involved in storytelling and arts and crafts, "so the parents learn about the other culture."

The kindergarten is decorated with cut-out animals marked with the children's names in Hebrew and Arabic, along with their birthdays, while in another part of the classroom, railroad cars bearing the names of the months in Hebrew and Arabic are tacked to the wall.

Terrorist incidents impact on the youngsters, but the kindergarten staff tries its best to explain such



Two of the four-year-olds at Jerusalem's Peace Kindergarten prepare to go for a spin yesterday.

(Bryan McBurney)

Rabin puppet speaks up

By URIEL HEILMAN

Last Friday night's *Hartzufim* saw the return of Yitzhak Rabin's voice, albeit from the throat of a puppet of his wife Leah. But Tuvia Tzafir, the voice-man for Rabin in the past, kept his mouth shut, refusing to imitate his voice for "personal reasons."

In the skit, the puppet of Leah Rabin is sitting at a cafe, ordering food. "Yitzhak would have wanted a cheese cake; Yitzhak would have wanted black coffee without sugar," she tells the waiter.

When asked whom Rabin wanted as his political heir, Leah goes into a deep trance and the voice of her late husband emerges from her throat. "I see Ehud Barak as the bearer of my torch," the voice says. Tzafir, who maintained that the

skit was in bad taste and should not have been broadcast, said, "This demonstrates irreverence for the dead."

After the sketch was written by Hartzufim's four-person team, it went through a council of seven others before being given the green light to air.

Responding to comments by Tzafir and director Roni Ninyu, both of whom were allowed to refuse participation in the program, chief writer Efraim Sidon insisted, "We are a mirror of what happens; we do not create things. At the moment that Leah Rabin turns political, we can imitate her."

Sidon added that the program will continue to use Rabin's voice when his name is invoked in political contexts.

attacks in the spirit of coexistence that pervades its work.

"It has an initial impact of pain; we feel the pain, but we deal with it by expressing that there are good people and bad people, and that we try to reach understanding and peace, and coexistence," said Ety Yitzhakoff, one of the teachers.

The youngsters treat each other with "tolerance and acceptance. They've learned to open their minds to different languages, smells, and tastes, and have learned to accept. I think they're much more open than other children," she said.

"They have learned and are learning to be much more tolerant.

to accept each other, and to learn that there's really no difference between children."

Echoing her teacher's words, Shani shared a giggle with Tomer, who said, "There should be no wars."

Yazam held up four fingers to tell how old he was before adding: "We're all the same."

The opening of the kindergarten was made possible by Jerusalem

Foundation funds as part of its efforts to increase its involvement in promoting Jewish-Arab coexistence in Jerusalem, and by a contribution from the Friends of the Jerusalem Foundation in Geneva, and the Friends of Janusz Korczak Association of Switzerland.

The success of this year's first class has led to plans to open two such kindergarten classes next year.

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IDF, SLA officers enjoy day on Hermon ski slopes

By DAVID RUDGE

Senior IDF and South Lebanese Army officers enjoyed a break from the dangers of life in the security zone yesterday with a day of fun on Mt. Hermon.

Dozens of officers, led by the head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, Brig-Gen. Eli Amitai, spent the day touring the snow-capped peak.

They were given briefings on the geography and history of the area and spent the rest of the day being hosted by the staff of the Mt. Hermon ski site.

"We took them for rides on our Sno-Cats and Arabic-speaking instructors gave them some skiing lessons, while those who could already ski enjoyed the slopes. All the time they were here, it snowed," said ski site manager Eli Sagron.

"It is the first time in the 25 years that I have been around here that I have seen snow falling on the mountain in April, as if it was January," said Rami Khalifon, operations manager at the ski site.

The late winter has saved the site from what appeared to be a

looming financial disaster. "The skiing season normally starts at the end of December or the beginning of January and lasts through to the middle or end of March," said Khalifon.

"This year something unusual happened. The weather during January was dry - there was no snow and no winter. The season only began in the second week of February."

Since then, however, the situation has turned around, with over 250,000 visitors to the site in the past eight weeks, despite fewer skiers than in previous years.

"We need at least 200,000 visitors to break-even and cover our investments, so at least we have earned a bit of profit," said Khalifon.

The late winter has also proved a boon for the country's water resources. "Mekorot" officials reported that the level of water in Lake Kinneret has risen 1.14 meters from its lowest point last autumn and is continuing to go up. The water level is now just over 2.50 m. above the minimum level, below which it is not allowed to drop, and just under 3.60 m. from maximum.

Jerusalem Post
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Astronauts hold a press conference aboard the space shuttle Columbia yesterday in reaction to NASA's decision to have them return to Earth 12 days early. (Reuters)

NASA space mission cut short

By MICHELLE KORDIN

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Astronauts scrambled to finish as many experiments as they could yesterday before getting ready to return to Earth 12 days early because of problems with a power generator on space shuttle Columbia.

In a morning news conference, the astronauts said they were surprised by Mission Control's action to cut short the mission.

"They were not consulted about it, but they said they supported the decision."

"It was a big disappointment to end the mission," said Donald Thomas, an astronaut-physicist. "But we've been working as hard as we can, working double-time up here, trying to make up for what we're losing."

Thomas had to break the news to two of the astronauts who were asleep at the time of the decision.

"It was just shock and disbelief at first because nobody anticipated that we would be coming home so soon," Thomas said.

"We thought we were going to go for the full 16 days." Scientists who spent more than three years coordinating the mission hoped to

get through 15 percent of the tests by the time the seven astronauts closed the shuttle's laboratory last night.

The crew was supposed to study fire, metals, crystals and plants during a 16-day flight, but NASA canceled those plans because the voltage in one of three electricity-producing fuel cells continued to drop. The potentially explosive unit had to be turned off.

The decision left the astronauts with just 2 1/2 days in the lab before a landing this afternoon. They had been scheduled to come home April 20.

The researchers said they will push to get their 33 experiments — considered precursors for the future international space station — on another shuttle mission.

Shuttle commander James Halsell Jr. said that as soon as the fuel cell was shut down, he had the crew review all the emergency procedures — just in case one of the two other electricity-producing fuel cells failed.

"I don't want to convey the opinion that we felt we were in imminent danger — certainly not," Halsell said. "But on the other hand, we want to be prepared for the next possible failure." NASA said a landing yesterday was

unnecessary, partly because the two remaining fuel cells were operating normally.

"It's a prudent thing to do, and we're all doing it in an orderly, methodical method," shuttle program manager Tommy Holloway said.

Their worry centered on hydrogen and oxygen in the deteriorating generator that could have mixed, overheated and blown up if the voltage dropped far enough. The astronauts shut down the fuel cell and other non-critical equipment to conserve power.

Only two other missions have been cut short by equipment failures. A malfunctioning fuel cell cut the second shuttle flight in 1981, and a failed navigation unit brought back Atlantis in 1991.

NASA rules demand that all three fuel cells be working properly in orbit or a mission has to be ended early. While a shuttle can land safely with two cells, it is uncertain what would happen if only one was available because of all the vital systems that would have to be shut down for lack of power.

Engineers did not know why the fuel cell, which has flown in space before without problems, slowly was losing voltage.

Rebel chief arrives in Zaire diamond capital

News agencies

MBUJI-MAYI — Rebel leader Laurent Kabila arrived in victory in Zaire's diamond capital yesterday to a smaller popular welcome but with the prospect of mining wealth to finance his war against President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Hundreds of residents turned out at Mbuji-Mayi airport to greet Kabila who flew in from the eastern city of Goma. Hundreds on the streets shouted support as he drove into the city.

The central region of Kasai, with its capital Mbuji-Mayi, is the homeland of veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, who last week offered ministry posts to rebels but was rebuffed.

About 2,000 people who had gathered at Mbuji-Mayi airport left before Kabila arrived with a heavy escort of bodyguards.

The turnout was smaller than the thousands who met him on his first visit to the northeastern capital of Kisangani, the center for a failed government counter-offensive in January.

"Kisangani was a psychological victory because it was believed that would be our Waterloo. It was the beginning of a certain confidence in our war," said rebel justice commissioner Mwenze Kongolo. "Mbuji-Mayi is not such a big psychological victory but it is still important in money terms because we have deprived Mobutu of his power to fight us."

Kabila said before leaving his rebel headquarters at Goma in the east that US troops on Zaire's border pose a threat to his country.

"They could move in at any time. They don't recognize the sovereignty of our people," he said. "For us it is a threat to our territorial integrity."

Kabila's forces have taken control of the eastern third of Zaire during their seven-month campaign to oust dictator Mobutu Sese Seko.

Kabila also said there should be no international intervention in Zaire.

About 1,200 US, Belgian, French and British soldiers forces have set up camp in Brazzaville, Congo, across the Zaire River from the Zairian capital of Kinshasa, in case Westerners have to be evacuated. The US warship Nassau is also stationed off the coast

of the central African nation, with about 1,000 Marines aboard.

US State Department officials in Washington refused to comment on Kabila's objections, but reiterated that possible evacuation is the soldiers' sole purpose.

In the capital Kinshasa, soldiers violently dispersed a march yesterday by thousands of anti-government protesters, driving armored vehicles into the crowd, hurling tear gas, and beating people with whips and sticks.

With many chanting "Power to the people!" and "We want change!" the crowd was marching to support opposition activist Tshisekedi, who was named prime minister last week but who now faces attempts to oust him by members of parliament angry over his militancy.

"We are sick of Mobutu," said a marcher.

Soldiers rushed in as the crowd, which had swelled to about 3,500, moved from Tshisekedi's home toward the parliament building downtown. Marchers fled into the fields, chased down by baton-wielding troops firing tear gas. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Tshisekedi backers say Mobutu and his former prime minister, Leon Kengo wa Dondo, are to blame for the Zairian army's losses to eastern rebels, and Tshisekedi forces in parliament succeeded last week in ousting Kengo on a vote of no-confidence.

The constitution mandated that opposition parties could recommend a replacement, and they chose Tshisekedi.

Immediately after taking office, however, Tshisekedi scrapped the constitution and fired the parliament, angering the legislators who put him in power. Now many of them are trying to force Tshisekedi out.

Tshisekedi has lost support of the parliamentarians who nominated him, and he has angered rebel leader Kabila by agreeing to work under Mobutu.

Kabila called the prime minister a "sellout" and rejected his offer of six Cabinet seats in a new government.

Kabila envisions a political reorganization in his country but has ruled out sharing power with loyalists of Mobutu.

Report: Russia has new anthrax toxin

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Russians have developed a genetically engineered variant of the anthrax toxin that is totally resistant to known antibiotics, the London-based Jane's information group reported.

According to the *Land Based Air Defense* publication that comes out this week, Russian military research laboratories and the quasi-civilian Biopreparat

organization have developed the deadly anthrax and two other new agents.

All three can be manufactured without using any of the customary precursor chemicals listed in the schedules of the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty of 1993, the report said. It said the information came from Russian defectors and Western intelligence sources.

The new anthrax strain is said to

be more than eight times more lethal on the battlefield than any known nerve agent, the publication said.

If such agents fall into the wrong hands, "It only needs this (anthrax toxin), or the new chemical nerve agents to be independently discovered by an ostracized nation's scientists and then developed for missile delivery for an Armageddon situation to occur," Jane's said.

Bomb kills daughter of Burmese official

RANGOON (Reuters) — A bomb exploded at the house of one of Burma's top military officials, killing his daughter and setting off a renewed security alert in Rangoon, the government and diplomats said yesterday.

The explosion was at the home of Lieutenant-General Tin Oo, Secretary Two of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and army chief of staff.

"On the evening of the 6th of April an explosion took place at the residence of Lieutenant-General Tin Oo," said a statement issued by the military government yesterday.

"In this incident the general's eldest daughter Cho Lei Oo, age 34 was killed in the terrorist bomb explosion." The statement did not give further details except to say that Cho Lei Oo was the mother of two and initial investigations showed the explosion was caused by a parcel bomb. It did not blame anyone for the attack.

Diplomats said a funeral would be held today. A makeshift tent, presumably for a memorial service, was seen on the grounds of Military Hospital Two where Cho Lei Oo was apparently taken after the attack.

Another person might also have been injured in the blast, which was

said to have been caused by a parcel bomb and occurred at about 8:30 in the evening, diplomats said.

One diplomat said officials told him that Tin Oo was not injured in the attack, although there were rumors he had been sent to hospital after the blast.

The statement said nothing about Tin Oo and if he was at home at the time of the attack.

Heightened security was apparent on Monday on Rangoon streets, mostly near Tin Oo's home in an elite residential neighborhood. Armed troops and police stood on many streets although they were not seen stopping pedestrians or vehicles.

BELFAST (Reuters) — A Roman Catholic church was destroyed early yesterday in the fifth suspected arson attack in a week against religious property in Northern Ireland.

"It's extremists that are responsible for this, there is no doubt," Father Kieron MacOscar told reporters outside the blackened remains of the 226-year-old Mullavilly church at Tandragee, one of Northern Ireland's oldest.

The fires mark the start of the province's tense "marching season." Three of the damaged churches serve the Roman Catholic minority and two belong to the pro-British Protestant majority.

Police said Mullavilly church, in the border county of Armagh, was gutted by a mysterious blaze which started a few hours after midnight. They confirmed arson was suspected.

The head of Ireland's Protestant church, Archbishop Robin Eames, visited the church together with the Catholic primate of Ireland, Archbishop Sean Brady and voiced concern at

a spate of what they feared were sectarian arson attacks.

"Once you attack a church, the center of community life like that, you are bringing sectarianism to its lowest point and that is why I am very concerned about our future," he said.

The fires hit against a background of rising Northern Ireland tension caused by the violence and the start of months of disputed pro-British parades by Protestant groups such as the 200-year-old Orange Order.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has been blamed for bomb scares which disrupted Britain's Grand National horse race at the weekend and has claimed responsibility for bomb warnings which brought British motorway traffic to a halt a few days before.

Violence by the IRA, which seeks an end to British rule of Northern Ireland, was blamed for an attack 10 days ago in which pro-British Loyalists broke an October 1994 truce and planted a bomb at the offices of the IRA's polit-

ical arm, Sinn Fein.

The bomb was defused. But security sources expressed concern that it might spell the formal end of the ceasefire by the Loyalists, who want Northern Ireland to stay British.

Loyalists, so-called because of their allegiance to Britain, are furious at what they see as IRA attempts to force Northern Ireland on to Britain's May 1 election agenda and say it is aimed at getting Sinn Fein invited to Belfast peace talks.

Sinn Fein is currently barred from the negotiations because the IRA ended a 17-month truce in February last year with the first of a wave of attacks in Britain and Northern Ireland.

The marching season started on March 31 with a Belfast parade by Protestants which was voluntarily re-routed to avoid antagonizing Catholics in a Belfast road and causing a re-run of violent incidents in the same parade the previous year.

EU caves in, Denmark stands firm on censuring China

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands (AP) — The European Union said yesterday it would introduce UN resolutions condemning human rights violations in several nations, but not in China — because of a veto from France.

But Denmark separately said it will introduce a motion on its own at the meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission condemning China despite threats of political, economic and trade sanctions from Beijing.

"We have made our decision and we stand firm," said Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen.

The French veto of yesterday's resolution in the name of the 15-nation European Union was a setback for efforts to craft a joint foreign policy.

It greatly dismayed the Netherlands, holder of the union presidency.

"If I were a political prisoner in China I'd be a very disappointed political prisoner," Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo said after a two-day European Union foreign ministers meeting.

China has defeated previous resolutions sponsored by Europe and the United States, thanks to support from developing countries in the 53-nation body, which is meeting in Geneva. It has said its work on improving human rights must proceed gradually, together with economic development.

The French veto against an European Union resolution was

seen to be motivated by trade concerns.

On May 20, French President Jacques Chirac leaves for China hoping to sell billions of dollars of Airbus airplanes.

Van Mierlo said that for consistency's sake the French veto of the China resolution led him to propose that the European Union refrain from sponsoring UN resolutions condemning rights violations elsewhere, notably in Iran, Iraq, Burma, Zaire and Nigeria.

"It is absolutely unfair to make a difference" between these nations and China, he added.

However, there was no broad support for that, meaning the European Union will go ahead and condemn the latter countries for violating democratic principles, but not China.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette denied the French veto made a mockery of European Union efforts to fashion a common foreign policy. He said Italy, Germany and Spain, too, opposed a public condemnation of China. However, van Mierlo said these were ready to endorse an anti-China motion if France had only softened its stance somewhat.

He said he was "grateful" Denmark was pursuing human rights violations in China on its own with a motion, to be introduced next week, that will probably get the support of all European Union nations except France.

Blair says he will sell state assets

LONDON (AP) — Opposition leader Tony Blair yesterday pledged to maintain the Conservative government's policy of selling off state-owned enterprises and properties — which his Labor Party had long opposed.

The pledge by Blair, front-runner in the campaign for May 1 national elections, marked the final ditching of Labor's opposition to privatization, strenuously pursued by the Conservatives through 18 years in power.

Earlier, aides said Labor is drawing up a list of state assets worth up to 122 billion pounds (NIS660 billion) for possible sales, including the National Air Traffic Control System.

"The presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector, with market forces being encouraged to operate," Blair told a gathering of business leaders at the Corn Exchange, London.

The government's treasury minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, scorned what he said was Labor's swift conversion to privatization.

"You can't put people who are making it up as they go along in charge of the national economy," Clarke said.

The Conservatives have sold off billions of pounds of state assets, including the national railways, British Airways, British Telecom, and the water and electricity companies during 18 years in power. Labor opposed each sale.

Meantime, Britain's best-known war correspondent, Martin Bell of the BBC, confirmed he will run as an anti-corruption candidate against a Conservative legislator.

Bell, 58, has the backing of opposition parties to challenge Neil Hamilton, who is accused of taking money in return for raising issues in Parliament.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

nation of terrorism.

Ross also indirectly criticized the Har Homa plan, saying "there can't be an approach that basically preempts a discussion of those issues."

Netanyahu held a 40-minute meeting with King Hussein Sunday night at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where Hussein is recovering from prostate surgery. Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali said that Netanyahu's visit was a "well appreciated humanitarian gesture."

Netanyahu said the visit symbolizes Israel's "warm feelings" for the king. He said that going into the meeting with the president he had three goals: returning stability to the region, returning security to the region, and promoting the peace process.

In a strongly pro-Israel speech to AIPAC Sunday night, Vice President Al Gore articulated three guiding principles for the US at this point in the peace process: the cessation of terror-

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

ism; direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians; and the removal of outside pressures on the parties.

"The issues in contention cannot and will not be resolved through violence. That is unacceptable," he said.

"One of the basic tenets of the Oslo accords is that Israelis and the Palestinians must work together to prevent violence... Solutions cannot and will not be achieved through violence."

"Unless residents of Tel Aviv can safely eat at cafes, unless Israeli and Palestinian children can safely play in their playgrounds, unless people can live quiet and normal lives, there will be no peace. Violence is not and cannot be the answer to any problems or the means for redressing any grievances. Tolerance of terror is unacceptable."

Gore also took an indirect swipe at President Hosni Mubarak for Egyptian press attacks on Israel, saying that while treaties are meant to lead to a warm peace, "you cannot get that if you demonize Israel and the Jewish people, and you should not remain silent if newspapers in your nation demonize Israel and the Jewish people."

stoned again after several hundred meters. He opened fire through the open front passenger window, then got out again, ran into an alley, and opened fire from 50 meters, this time hitting Hamuda and Salah. He ran back to his car and drove off.

Several residents said the man frequently drove through the village, instead of taking the bypass road.

Sidbon said that security forces were coordinating with the Palestinian Police and were in touch with Khaled Tartash, in charge of the joint Palestinian/Israeli patrols, who passed on eyewitness reports from villagers and the medical files of the two injured Palestinians to the Israel Police.

Sidbon told Army Radio that it was clear stones were thrown, but it was unclear whether the suspect acted in self-defense. He added that there has been a rise in the number of stone-throwing incidents lately.

In a related incident, Hebron police yesterday morning detained Ophir Ohana, director of the Gutnick Center in Hebron, after he fired a warning shot in the air when he was stoned by a large group of Palestinians near the Machpela Cave. No injuries were reported.

The Hebron Jewish community immediately issued a statement demanding the police release Ohana, who they said acted in self-defense. Police released Ohana later in the day.

DRIVE CAREFULLY

Next: The orgasm pill

NEW BRUNSWICK (AP) — Two Rutgers University researchers believe they have isolated a chemical that produces orgasms in women.

Such a finding could lead one day to a pill that would give a person the same sensation as an orgasm and might have use in treating pain, said Barry R. Komisaruk, a professor at Rutgers.

His partner in the research was professor Beverly Whipple, who in 1982 wrote *The G-Spot and Other Recent Discoveries About Human Sexualities*.

The researchers focused on a group of women paralyzed by spinal cord injuries. In the past, experts have argued that people with such injuries were unable to experience an orgasm.

What Komisaruk found was an alternate pathway to sexual arousal through the vagus nerve, which goes directly from the cervix, through the abdomen and chest cavity, into the neck and to the brain stem.

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Well-deserved victory

The Ethiopian immigrant community scored a victory yesterday when President Ezer Weizman blocked the granting of the Israel Prize for Journalism to Shmuel Schnitzer, a veteran journalist who wrote a column that was deeply offensive to Ethiopian Jews. It is an episode that illustrates the coming of age of the community here, and an example of the arrogance of which one prominent journalist is capable.

Schnitzer, a columnist and former editor of *Ma'ariv*, wrote a column on August 19, 1994, in that newspaper entitled "Importing Death." The column accused the government of gross negligence for permitting the immigration of "thousands of apostates carrying dangerous diseases." He wrote that the reason the Falash Mura were being allowed to emigrate to Israel was to prove to the world that "blacks, too, can make aliya, and one doesn't even have to be Jewish. So can an apostate, someone with tuberculosis, or with AIDS."

The Falash Mura are the children or grandchildren of Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity over the past 120 years. In his opinion piece, Schnitzer argued that by allowing them to immigrate to Israel, the government was ignoring two exceptions to the near-blanket right granted Jews to immigrate under the Law of Return: for "a person who has been a Jew and has voluntarily changed his religion" and for someone who is "likely to endanger public health... of the State."

But Schnitzer chose to ignore several facts. The Falash Mura were not transported to Israel en masse like the Ethiopian Jewish community in Operation Solomon in 1991, but are being admitted on a case-by-case basis, usually on the basis of the family reunification provisions in the Law of Return. These immigrants underwent medical screening and anyone who was deemed a threat to public health was not admitted.

He also chose to ignore the humanitarian aspects of the matter, such as the fact that thou-

sands of Ethiopians sold all their property, trekked for days to the capital, and sat in a camp near the Israeli Embassy for years, learning Hebrew, singing Israeli songs, living an Orthodox Jewish life and praying for the day they would come to Israel.

Even Ethiopian activists admit that it is not simple to determine who really qualifies under the Law of Return, and to prevent thousands who may not from "piggybacking" on legitimate immigrants.

But Schnitzer did not address the nuances of the issue, or the heartbreaking dilemmas, or the humanitarian responsibilities of a Jewish state. Instead he chose to tar a few thousand destitute people - most yearning to join their families in Israel and their fate with the Jewish people - as diseased apostates.

Schnitzer, of course, denies that he is a racist. But he has been fairly challenged with the question of why he was so exercised about non-Jewish Ethiopian immigrants, and not the non-Jewish Russian ones, who are estimated to number as many as 100,000.

But one need not resort to the charge of racism to label the piece mean-spirited, misleading, and ill-informed.

It is therefore appropriate that the Press Council's ethics committee found that Schnitzer's column violated the standards of journalistic ethics. Surprisingly, the judges on the Israel Prize committee were unaware of this article and ironically, the committee accompanied its choice of Schnitzer with the accolade: "for years he acted through his writing to reduce tensions between different sectors of the population and to achieve integration and understanding between them."

Perhaps the "integration" they referred to was the process of teaching Ethiopian immigrants that they, like all good Israelis, can run to the Supreme Court to protect their rights - in this case to prevent the granting of a government prize to a journalist who has deeply offended them.

Plucky little Denmark

The European Union yesterday demonstrated how this huge association of some of the world's most advanced nations remains considerably less than the sum of just one member with integrity.

The question was whether a European resolution could be proposed this week at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva censuring China for its abysmal record in human rights. Debating the issue at the EU foreign ministers meeting in the Dutch town of Noordwijk, these architects of European foreign policy said the EU would introduce UN resolutions condemning human rights violations in several nations. But not in China.

The technical reason was a veto by France. The real reason was craven cowardice wedded to a typical self-centered victory of greed over morality. On May 20 President Jacques Chirac leaves for China and hopes to sell billions of dollars of Airbus airplanes.

The only country to stand tall in the affair is Denmark. Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said his country will press on regardless and present the resolution criticizing China. Beijing immediately demonstrated that in the post-Cold War world it seems to have elected itself chief international bully and immediately began issuing insults and threats against the Danes.

"If Denmark insists on doing this it will end up as the biggest loser," Chinese Foreign Ministry

spokesman Shen Guofang said, in language more suited to the schoolyard than international diplomacy. He went on to say bluntly that relations with Denmark will be severely damaged "in the political or economic and trade areas."

France may well argue that only the little, like Denmark and its smaller European supporters, can afford to be brave in this way, for they do not have as much to lose in the savage battle for commercial contracts between the big predators in the market jungle.

This is nonsense, of course. As Denmark's own domestic critics (industry leaders - who else?) quickly pointed out, the country stands to lose many millions of dollars' worth of business. The foreign ministry knows there is often a price to pay for principle and that self-respect never comes cheap.

The Danish Shipping group A.P. Moeller, which has huge interests in China, commented in its last annual report that it is "sad to observe" how Denmark, with only one-thousandth of the world's population, lectures big countries around the world on how to behave.

That is not half so sad as companies and countries with their faces deep in the commercial trough who seem to have forgotten that one just country is as rare as one just man. Yet they are the measure and the benchmark for the civilization the European Union is now so proud of. They were pretty rare 50 years ago, too - and then, as now, Denmark was one of them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JUDAISM IN JERUSALEM

Sir, - During the Rabin-Peres era, Israel was popular with Arab states making contacts. Arab leaders coming to Rabin's funeral, the European community granting benefits and encouraging investment. Now Arab states are freezing relations, Arab leaders are threatening dire consequences if Har Homa is built, the Europeans are siding with Arafat, and even the US State Department is adopting an odd attitude.

What is the popularity of Israel a function of? Is it really a matter of peace, being kind to the Palestinians, guaranteeing the status of the Holy Places, that determine friendliness towards Israel or its ostracism? Were Europe, the State Department, the Palestinians, Egypt and the Gulf States really enamored of Rabin and Peres because they promoted peace, were willing to give the Palestinians their due and did not insist on "Judaizing Jerusalem?"

And do they resent Netanyahu, to put it mildly because he is disturbing the peace, being harsh towards the Palestinians and insisting on holding on to all of Jerusalem? And exactly what is the objection to a Jewish Jerusalem?

Is it possible that what Christians

APPRO PROTEST

Sir, - In her article of March 30, "Tel Aviv one week after the bomb struck," your reporter claims that customers sitting at the Apropro cafe on Friday, March 28, found it "difficult to relax and enjoy their coffee in peace" because "protesters formed a ring around the cafe, chanting..."

We protesters did not "chant" at all during our two-hour memorial protest vigil. Even if we had, no one would have heard us as we were placed quite a distance from the cafe and would not have been able to compete against the high-decibel level of passing traffic and the shouts of the children romping on the snow hill. In fact, after lighting remembrance candles, we stood quietly, as the occasion demanded, holding up our various banners.

What is more, we did not "form a ring around the cafe" - a logistic impossibility in that area, as anyone acquainted with the layout of the cafe would be aware. We stood opposite the cafe in the avenue, quite far away.

JACOB CHINITZ
Jerusalem.

TRUDY GEFEN
Kiryat Ono.



Final status, final peace

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

Oslo. One can hardly open a newspaper without reading about the Oslo peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians, and how Israel's violation of this or that provision has led to the current impasse and violence.

But the "Oslo" you read about has become surreal, entirely disconnected from the documents actually signed by Yasser Arafat and Israeli leaders.

Take, for example, Israel's building Jewish housing on Har Homa in East Jerusalem. This is routinely cited as a violation of Oslo.

The real Oslo, however, is very explicit in treating Jerusalem as a separate entity from the West Bank and Gaza. There are strict rules about what can and cannot be done in the West Bank and Gaza. But there is nothing of the sort regarding Jerusalem.

For good reason. No Israeli government would ever have signed an agreement that prohibited it from housing Jews anywhere in Jerusalem. Indeed, Jewish housing was built in East Jerusalem throughout Yitzhak Rabin's stewardship of the Oslo process.

In the fictional "Oslo" created by Arafat, however, he has a veto over where Jews may live in Jerusalem. Has anyone who parrots this claim actually read the Oslo accords?

Or consider the three West Bank "redeployments" that Israel promised in the Hebron agreement (the third pact under the Oslo process). On March 7, in strict accord with Hebron and exactly on schedule, Binyamin Netanyahu announced a withdrawal from 9.1 percent of West Bank territory.

Arafat went ballistic, declaring himself - and Oslo - betrayed because he didn't get 30 percent. The Western press meekly echoed the charge. Some journalists even appeared to validate it.

NBC's Andrea Mitchell, for example, offered this on a radio

show: "The counterargument (to charges of Palestinian violations of Oslo) would be that the Israelis were not living up to the Oslo accords because they did not withdraw adequately in this most recent withdrawal."

There is no such counterargument. There is nothing in Oslo, nothing in the Hebron agreement, nothing anywhere that says anything about the adequacy of 9 percent or 30 percent or any percent. In fact, according to the official

talk show: "The counterargument (to charges of Palestinian violations of Oslo) would be that the Israelis were not living up to the Oslo accords because they did not withdraw adequately in this most recent withdrawal."

Other parts of Oslo are extremely explicit. Oslo clearly requires the renunciation of violence. Oslo II, Article XV: "Both sides shall take all measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime and hostilities directed against each other."

Yet Arafat's aides admit that his own Fatah faction organized the recent anti-Israeli rioting.

Oslo is equally unequivocal that the PLO must change its charter that calls for the destruction of Israel. In 3 1/2 years, Arafat has not done that. Indeed, when last questioned about it, he retorted that he would do it when Israel adopted a constitution. (Israel, like Britain, has only an unwritten constitution.) Translation: Go jump in the lake.

Oslo is dead. Arafat's disdain for it has rendered it useless. He contemptuously dismisses the obligations placed on him (e.g., the charter, nonviolence) while cynically ascribing invented obligations to Israel (e.g., the 30 percent).

What to do? The point now is not to save Oslo, which is beyond saving, but to save the peace, which still has a chance.

Netanyahu has suggested short-circuiting Oslo and beginning final status negotiations now. King Hussein is open to the idea. The US is studying it.

It should embrace it. If peace is to be had, we must go for it now.

Oslo was meant to be an interim accord, anyway. Trying to enforce it is a hopeless task. Rather than haggle over the terms of a losing proposition, let's cut to the final act.

President Clinton should bring Arafat and Netanyahu to Camp David; lock 'em up, like Begin and Sadat; and not let them out until they produce - not another Oslo, not another interim piece of paper, but the real deal: final status, and final peace.

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The tragicomedy of Hefetz

JEREMY MAISSEL

Last week Israelis sniggered over reports of how the police chief, Insp. Gen. Assaf Hefetz, fined himself NIS 750 after he was spotted driving while using the handset of a mobile phone.

A bit of a laugh, wasn't it? Actually, no.

Death and injury resulting from traffic offenses have reached plague proportions in this country, costing us more lives than wars and terrorist attacks combined.

Again and again Israelis are lectured on the unified, concerted effort they must make to eliminate this curse.

Yet one of the biggest obstacles in the path of any effort, in fact one of the most perilous aspects of the whole problem, is that we have come to accept road deaths as a regrettable but inevitable part of our daily lives.

Compare this attitude with the atmosphere following the disastrous helicopter disaster which killed 73 soldiers.

Remember how singleminded the nation became over those few days, how we put our differences on the back-burner? You could almost feel that mass concentration on the dead soldiers, on their families, everyone trying hard to understand what really happened so it could be avoided in future.

Traffic fatalities? They're about as interesting as last week's news. In fact, they are last week's news - and this week's, and next's.

That's the crux of the problem. We're used to it.

Far more people have already died on our roads this year than 73 - but who are the ones who'll be remembered?

The experts have deemed the use

We need to push home the message that driving past a police patrol car while using one's mobile phone and not being caught, or driving way over the speed limit isn't necessarily cause for bragging. We need to teach that it's dumb, not daring.

Unfortunately, reading about Hefetz's and Levy's casual flouting of the law makes this kind of message almost impossible to transmit.

We cannot afford people who beat the system. The consequences of their "cleverness" are too heavy to bear.

In reaction to the press reports, the police spokesman initially explained that Hefetz has trouble hearing a speakerphone, which is why he was using the handset. The handset, he went on, was balanced on Hefetz's shoulder, and since that left him with both hands on the wheel, he wasn't really committing an offense.

A later statement said the original one was mistaken, and added that the police chief had fined himself NIS 750.

What are we playing at here? This obvious attempt to smooth things over for Hefetz was an insult to the public's intelligence.

Hefetz's fining himself may have been meant - let's give him the benefit of the doubt - as a gesture of contrition; but it really isn't good enough.

If the public is to observe traffic laws seriously, it has a right to expect a personal example from the country's top policeman.

Breaking the law, then paying up when you're caught just won't do.

The writer, a religious educator, is a member of Kibbutz Alumim.

Which system?

YOSEF GOELL

Fauly memory explains a lot. It might explain why so many Israelis of integrity seem to be listening to politicians, on both sides of the political fence, who propose scrapping our new system of direct election and returning to the old one (choosing our prime minister by post-electoral coalition horse-trading).

Well... There were some good things about the old system. And there is certainly cause for disappointment in the way the new one has been working - not least of them the problematic personality of our first directly-elected prime minister.

But it is vital that we indulge in some sensible reflection and recall to what depths the previous system managed to sink.

Remember the buying and selling of individual maverick MKs in the notorious "sinking maneuver," that attempt in 1990 by Shimon Peres to topple the Likud-led national unity government, and the Likud's own counter-attempt to thwart it?

That was the culmination of a long period in which elections ended in near-ties between the two major parties - a sure invitation to political degeneracy.

Now electoral politics are handled by a general affair in any democracy, but there are red lines.

By 1990, after a decade of deterioration, the system itself had become delegitimized in the eyes of a growing majority of citizens. Things were bad indeed.

DIRECT election succeeded in restoring a sense of legitimacy by making it absolutely clear that whoever got chosen prime minister reflected the desires of the majority of the electorate. That, after all, is the bedrock of democracy.

And, by that criterion, the new system has worked. Whatever we

What direct election can do, and what it can't

may think of him individually, there isn't the slightest doubt that a majority of voters preferred Binyamin Netanyahu over Shimon Peres.

And it is precisely because the people chose him that he ought not to be unseated by any reversion to those hoary old party shenanigans in the Knesset.

The weakest aspect of the new system is the nature of the candidate who was chosen.

Netanyahu came literally out of nowhere, with absolutely no record of achievement save some speechifying at the UN. He also boasted an impressive ability to raise money from Jewish millionaires and, aided by them, to take over his party, trampling down all opposition.

Labor has the same problem with Ehud Barak.

While Barak does have a record in the army, culminating in a mixed performance as chief of staff, we haven't the slightest idea about his positions on the myriad issues that anyone who aspires to lead the nation will have to address.

This serious defect is not, however, so much an outgrowth of our new electoral system as a result of the collapse of both major parties as meaningful entities, standing for something besides gaining power and divvying up the spoils.

Once the ideological and programmatic aspects of a party are allowed to erode drastically, sheer personality and vaunted ability to win elections comes to the fore.

This can be dangerously tempting to all kinds of charlatans and bamboozlers, masters at talking out of the multiple sides of their mouths; to out-and-out crooks, and even more dangerous characters, all eager to compete under the new rules of the game.

The kinds of characters who have periodically been elected American president should serve as an object lesson.

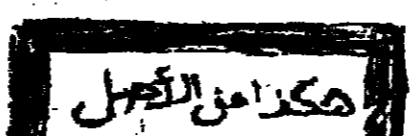
The answer is not to throw out the new system wholesale and return to the bad old days.

Rather, it should be sought in the direction of completing political reform by strengthening the Knesset as a major check on any dark dictatorial tendencies that may lurk in the heart of a directly-elected prime minister.

But the central answer to getting better government goes even beyond that. It lies in attracting better candidates, people of proven integrity, to the political life and competition for the top roles.

And no mere change in the system will do that.

The writer comments on current affairs.



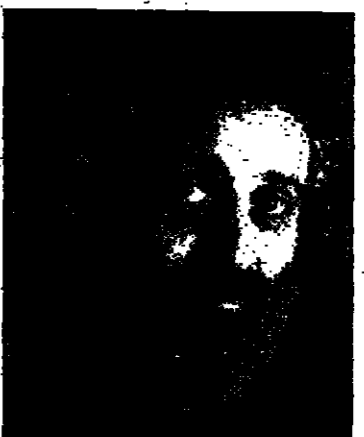
Which system? JOSEF GOELL... It might explain why my Israeli of music...

IN TUNE

Live at heart

By DAVID BRINN

Live is a major '90s buzz band with a minor '90s problem. Minor chord, that is. They are the only chords the band attempts to use, as it tries to be important and meaningful.



David Grisman: Renaissance man

softly and when the chorus comes along, so does the volume. The sole tunes that break this tedious pattern are the Bono-sounding "Turn Your Head," and the typically bouncy, playful "America."

DAVID Grisman is a true renaissance man. Whether playing a mandolin waltz, jamming to "Shalom Aleichem," or dueting with the late Jerry Garcia on a folksy children's song, he displays a play-

ful spark of excitement and a deep love of music. The founder of the Acoustic Disc label, Grisman has released these three albums recently which cover a staggering variety of musical styles.

- SECRET SAMADHI Live (Red Artz) 100% HANDMADE MUSIC VOLUME II David Grisman and various artists SONGS OF OUR FATHERS David Grisman and Andy Statman TONE POEMS David Grisman and Tony Rice (Acoustic Disc)

Songs of our Fathers is a wonderfully nostalgic look at Grisman and fellow mandolinist Andy Statman's Jewish roots. Performing Shlomo Carlebach material and traditional Shabbat fare in a spirited manner, Grisman and Statman effortlessly invoke a bygone era.

100% Handmade Music is a tantalizing sampler of the label's offerings. Songs range from bluegrass and country to folk, classical, jazz and Hassidic.

Grisman's most famous collaborator, Jerry Garcia, appears on two tracks, including the children's favorite "Teddy Bears' Picnic." Grateful Dead fans may recall that Grisman made his recording debut on the studio version of "Friend of the Devil" from the Dead's American Beauty.

On Tone Poems, Grisman teams up with guitarist Tony Rice for a batch of vintage folk and country songs played on equally vintage instruments. An accompanying booklet fully annotates the history of the instruments used - its a stringed-instrument fan's dream come true.

All three discs are available through Paul's CD Service - (02) 643-7747, or e-mail paul_g@netvision.net.il

OPERA REVIEW



Vicente Ombuena's glorious tenor enhances the role of the Duke in 'Rigoletto.' (Gadi Dagon)

Verdi up a tree

By URY EPPSTEIN

Jean-Philippe Lafont gave a powerful performance as Rigoletto. His baritone and profoundly moving expressivity conveyed all the pain, pathos, rage, tragedy and irony of this complex character.

Burchuladze, personified Sparafucile's evil. These were the outstanding features of the New Israeli Opera's production of Verdi's Rigoletto, conducted by Gary Bertini.

David Pountney's direction and Stefanos Lazaridis's set were burdened with too obviously deliberate and forced efforts to innovate at all costs. This quest for sophistication amounted to not much more than a shallow symbolism not particularly relevant to the composer's own supposed ideas and cultural background.

ideal of 19th-century Romanticism: womanly love and devotion as the ultimate redeeming power, just like Aida, Violetta, Isolde, Senta and Brünnhilde who together provide the key for understanding Gilda's femininity, still untangled by later notions of feminism.

The director himself presumably knows why part of the action had to take place on a dinner table, and why Gilda had to sing "Caro Nome" from a tree-top. Under Bertini, the Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion led to a spirited, well-paced realization of the score. The Tel Aviv Opera House, March 31.

A season of stars in Haifa

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Music lovers in Haifa are renewing their subscriptions for the 1997/98 Haifa Symphony Orchestra season which opens on October 29 with a concert performance of Verdi's most popular opera, La Traviata.

born, locally based composer Paul Schoenfeld; and a clarinet concerto by Aharon Harlap performed by the orchestra's principal clarinetist Ori Orbach.

Other featured stars include cellist Robert Cohen (who will play Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto), Catherine Cho (Sibelius's Violin Concerto), pianist Pascal Rogé (Poulenc), Peter Frankl (Mozart's 25th Piano Concerto) and cellist Mischa Maisky (Tchaikovsky's Rocco Variations).

Conductor Stanley Sperber will be joined by familiar faces like Aldo Ceccato, Andrew Parrott, John Nelson and Mendi Rodan, as well as new faces such as conductors Arvo Volmer and Kenneth Kiesler, soprano Inese Galante and pianist Awadagin Pratt.

Subscriptions have gone up by 7 percent. For the 12-concert season it costs NIS 1,113-777 before reductions. Those who are willing to sit on the stage of the Haifa Auditorium and view orchestra members and conductors from very close range can enjoy the 12 concert season for a mere NIS 273.



Awadagin Pratt

Vive La France

By MATT NESS

A French film festival is much like the exhibitions of French Impressionist painting that pack art galleries with people who wouldn't otherwise get any closer to art than the top of a chocolate box. In short, it's money in the bank, as witnessed by the number of French movies that are screened in even the most commercial of movie theaters.

The Tel Aviv and Jerusalem Cinémaquêtes' current celebration of French film-making is more varied and thoughtful than this, however. For the most part, it avoids the purely chic, coolly framed formalities that are so often exported from France. The directorial talents of the superficial, Bertrand (Too Beautiful for You) Blier and Luc (Nikita) Besson, are absent.

The Jerusalem Cinémaquêtes has a strong bond with French cinema. For the last few months, it has been holding monthly screenings of new French films that aren't likely to be released in other cinemas here.

The first, Will It Snow at Christmas?, was a hard, gritty look at life on a farm under an abusive father. Fortunately, there's more where that came from. Shadow of a Doubt, which was made in 1993 and shows here April 24, is a tough look at child abuse that's neither sappy nor emotionally draining.

The chic coating of most commercial French film is absent from April 26. It's called Yves Saint Laurent and features YSL talking about himself and "his art."

Madame Bovary, allows his actors to show their deep repressions. Isabelle Huppert, one of France's most accomplished actresses, seems to have ice, not blood, in her veins, so beaten down is she by her life as the wife of a boring country doctor.

So, too, in A Heart in Winter, which shows this Saturday. It's the story of a man in love with his business partner's lover and of the way she begins slowly to return his feelings.

But the real drama is in the quiet glances that director Claude Sautet uses to show their love developing and the impossibility of its reaching fruition.

The film, one of the best in the festival, has marvelous performances by real-life husband and wife Daniel Auteuil and Emmanuelle Beart, first seen together in one of France's most successful films of the 1980s, Manon des Sources.

There's a strand of French film-making that's also been important in developing new styles.

Jean-Luc Godard, in his 1967 film La Chinoise - which shows tomorrow night, used torrents of slogans and posters to emphasize his political ideas - and the superficiality of other people's politics.

Alain Robbe-Grillet, the man who epitomized the "nouveau roman," has one of his recent, highly experimental films in the festival.

Finally, you may wish to try the 1994 documentary showing on April 26. It's called Yves Saint Laurent and features YSL talking about himself and "his art."

By HELEN KAYE

It's not only the New Israeli Opera's bar-mitzva season, it's Israel's 50th birthday, and the 1997/98 roster of eight new productions without a single revival pays tribute to both.

The flagship production has to be Franco Zeffirelli's colossal La Boheme, next October, with sets and costumes from La Scala di Milano, conducted by our own Daniel Oren and starring Richard Leech and Nuccia Focile as Rodolfo and Mimì.

But the season starts with an all-new production of that Mozart charmer The Marriage of Figaro. Singing the role of Marcellina will be Ann Howells, who sang Dido in Dido and Aeneas, the NIO's first full production, in 1986.

In April '98, look for a sparkling La Cenerentola by Rossini, directed by Giancarlo del Monaco. It will be playing simultaneously with a new La Traviata starring our own Gabi Sadeh as Alfredo and Michal Shamir (whose voice is getting better and better) as Violetta. She's singing the Countess in Figaro too.

And so opera lovers won't be too cocooned, there are three contemporary operas: Richard Strauss's Salome, next May, courtesy of the Kirov Opera, con-

REVIEWS

in brief

Theater

Witold Gombrowicz, a well-known 1930s Polish novelist, made his mark as a forerunner of the Theater of the Absurd with Yvonne, Princess of Burgundy, a scathing comedy of morals and manners.

Classically treated, the subtle sarcasm of the piece depends for its bite on the mock sophistication and witty elegance radiated by the actors.

At the Khan Theater, Jerusalem, however, the play is given another, lamentably naive interpretation on account of which its innate ironic thrust sinks out of sight.

It is treated at face value, with the characters reduced to a set of grotesque cardboard cutouts from a pack of playing cards. The result is a family of red and gold tinsel royals that are weak reflections of Gombrowicz's glittering characterizations.

There is, however, a hint of the original intent in the more precious presentations of Lilian Barto (the Queen) and Katia Zimbrice (Isabelle) with a diverting duet given by Aliza Rosen and Ahuva Keren in the lesser roles of the oddball Yvonne's doty aunts. Naomi Doudai

Concerts

Russian music was at the core of the three major music events of the past few weeks. First came pianist Ivo Pogorelich at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, playing Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Sonata in a most captivating manner. Pogorelich presents a very personal approach, taking the music as nothing more than a starting point for building a magnificent canvas of sound and emotions.

Pianist Yefim Bronfman played Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto in a most sublime way, tearing off its schmaltzy cover and delving deep into the essence of the music. Bronfman, known for his huge sound at the piano, impressed, above all, with his pianissimo and with the tender second movement he presented.

In the first part of this concert, Mendi Rodan led the IPO in excerpts from the two jazz suites by Shostakovich, in a performance which was exciting from beginning to end.

Maxim Shostakovich, the composer's son, was not able to draw this fun-like quality and vivacious music making when he conducted the Ra'anana Symphonette in his father's Third Dance Suite. But in the Chamber Symphony Op. 110a, Shostakovich brought the Symphonette to a very powerful, engaging and dramatic performance.

The highlight of this concert was the performance of pianist Revital Hachamoff who played Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto with elan, suave charm and panache. This is an Israeli pianist who definitely deserves more attention. Michael Ajzenstadt

The Jerusalem Rubín Academy's 50th anniversary marathon concert displayed a variety of approaches to chamber music with guest performers from all over Europe.

An outstanding highlight was Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, a particularly demanding work, rendered by violinist Nicolas Dantracourt, clarinetist Jerome Voisin, cellist Sarah Inacu and pianist Philippe Castaignes of the Paris Conservatory.

Strong identification with modern music was evident in the Berlin Sirene Quartet's well-shaped, intensely energetic and gripping performance of Stravinsky's Concertina.

The Austrian touch manifested itself in a mellow sound, exuberant vitality, colorful dynamics and light-hearted elegance as the Abisgus Quartet from Graz played Haydn's Sunrise Quartet. Shostakovich's Quartet No. 8, at the other extreme, was rendered with poignant emotion and all its abyssal resignation. Ury Eppstein

In the Jerusalem Rubín Academy's 50th anniversary concert in the Knesset's lecture room, the program selection focused on Jewishness in music: from the Renaissance of Salomone Rossi to contemporary and ethnic Israeli samples by Sasha Argov, Misha Segal and Judeo-Spanish Romances.

Recorder-fest Michael Meltzer, together with his recorder ensemble, soprano Tahli Tereza and guitarist Roman Smirnov, offered enchanting, tasteful renditions of these Jewish and Israeli musical tidbits, as an introduction for the uninitiated. Ury Eppstein

The Jerusalem Rubín Academy-sponsored Kaprizna Ensemble presented a world premiere of a new Israeli work, Mark Kopytman's Three Nights, to a text by David Vogel, and three local premieres of American works, conducted by Richard Wernick.

Kopytman's work sensitively captures the mood of the emotionally highly charged poems. It conveys their content's tension and follows closely their language's sound and inner rhythm, with an expressive vocal line and subtle, independent instrumental interactions.

Alto Mira Zakai rendered the songs with intense identification and involvement.

The seldom performed original 13-instrument version of Copland's Appalachian Spring sounded more lucid, transparent and colorful than the orchestral version and was also more complete.

In his Piece for the Trumpet and Seven Instruments with soloist Ken Kox, Stefan Wolpe explored the instruments' manifold sonorities in a jerky, jumpy manner, as if celebrating human nervousness. Wernick, in Intros and Canons, evokes contrasting moods by juxtaposing various tone colors and rhythmic patterns, and by a skillful, predominantly intellectual, manipulation of musical forms. Ury Eppstein

A selection of Paul Ben-Haim's works from 1937 to 1967 for various instrument combinations was devised as a concise musical biography. Biographer Prof. Jehoesh Hirschberg assumed the role of live program notes.

Almost all the works' performances were collaborations of Rubín Academy students with guests from German and Finnish academies.

The evening's only adult performer, Allan Sternfeld, offered a masterful rendition of Music for the Piano as the program's impressive conclusion. Ury Eppstein

Dance

The 150th performance of Rami Be'er's Aide Memoire by the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, with a new, young cast (prior to its tour of Poland), showed that it is one of the finest dance creations ever done by an Israeli choreographer.

Be'er deals with our nation's collective memory by confronting his private load of associations.

As a second-generation Holocaust survivor, he manages to confront the issue in a subtle, abstract way, thus intensifying the impact of the dance.

Aide Memoire is an evening-long work, structured extremely well, communicated on several levels and satisfying in an agitating way. A work that leaves a lasting residue. Ora Brafman

BUSINESS

in brief

Israel joins emerging-market index

The International Finance Corporation said it will include Israel in its benchmark indexes of emerging stock markets. The IFC, the private financing arm of the World Bank, will create the index based on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's largest and most active stock offerings.

The Israel index will allow the IFC - which has indexes for Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia - to create new regional indexes for the region. Including Israel, the IFC indexes cover 45 emerging markets.

Jennifer Friedlin

KFC approves privatization of tourism school

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the privatization of the Israel School of Tourism. The state currently holds 78 percent of the firm, both directly and through other government-owned companies. The sale will be conducted privately, either here or abroad. The government has also committed itself to divesting from its control of Laromme Hotels International Ltd., Eilat Foreshore Development Co. Ltd., Arad and Dead Sea Region Development Co. Ltd., and Tadmor Hotel School Ltd.

"If no one comes forward to buy the school, we will close it down," a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office said. "However, we think we'll find buyers."

The company employs 22 people, with an additional 200 freelance lecturers.

David Harris

Bahrain buys Caltex stake

Bahrain signed an agreement yesterday with Caltex Corp., acquiring the US company's 40 percent stake in Bahrain Petroleum Co. The agreement, which was signed by Bahraini Oil Minister Sheikh Isa bin Ali Khalifa and Caltex chairman David Smith, gives Bahrain full control of the oil company.

The Bapco refinery, which is owned by the company, is one of the oldest in the Gulf and produces 250,000 barrels of oil a day. Caltex had controlled the refinery since its inception in 1936 until 1981, when the Bahraini government entered as a major shareholder.

Caltex, which is a joint venture between Texaco Inc. and Chevron Corp., will continue to provide technical services to the refinery, the Gulf News Agency said.

AP

Panel rejects call to close PA account

By DAVID HARRIS

MK Silvan Shalom's (Likud) bid to close the so-called "secret" Palestinian Authority bank account in Tel Aviv was rejected yesterday by the Knesset Finance Committee during a heated debate.

A majority of MKs on the committee accepted Avraham Shohat's (Labor) argument that the account, opened when he was finance minister, was not a secret fund, but a legitimate method of transferring petroleum excise to the PA.

The existence of the account was first reported by *The Jerusalem Post* on September 4, 1996.

Almost NIS 500 million has so far been pumped into this account from the Treasury, with the full knowledge of both the government and PA.

This is one of several accounts opened for the specific purpose of transferring numerous duties to the PA.

However, it is the only one in Israel, while the others are in the Palestine Bank in Gaza. The three additional accounts cover import taxes, income tax and health tax. These accounts were set up in accordance with the Paris agreement.

The Treasury transferred to the Bank Leumi account in Tel Aviv NIS 28m. in 1994, NIS 100.8m. in 1995, NIS 334.1m. last year and NIS 2.8m. in January.

"When the account was set up copies of the relevant documentation were sent to [PA chairman Yasser] Arafat, to [former Treasury director-general David] Brodet, to

myself, and to the Palestinian Finance Minister [Zuhdi Al Nashashibi]," said Shohat.

The donor countries are also fully aware of this account, he added.

One of Shalom's main arguments against the account is that the signatories to it are not the highest ranking officials, but Arafat's chief economic adviser Mohammed Rachid and Nashashibi's assistant deputy Mohammed Jaradah.

"To me this account is like a Fund B [or slush fund] and therefore we must close it," said Shalom, who heads the coalition group on the committee. The money should be placed in one of the accounts in Gaza, and the PA should inform the Israeli government for what the money is intended, he said.

"We must not give a hand to their activities until we know exactly what they are."

"There's nothing secret here, it's all in the open for the public to see," said Customs and VAT Department director-general Moti Ayalon.

The finance committee debate on the issue flared up several times, with Shohat calling Shalom a "gangster" and Shalom reportedly retorting that Shohat was "rubbish."

Israeli and non-Israeli official sources have said that some of the money has been designated mainly for Arafat's discretionary spending.

"What the PA does with the money afterwards is its own issue; I'm not the PA state comptroller," said Haim Oron (Meretz).

Bezeq share offer approval delayed over workers' rights

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday failed to approve the government's prospective sale of a 24-percent stake of Bezeq, due to concerns by Labor MKs over workers' rights.

MK Avi Yehezkel (Labor) asked for the opportunity to hold an internal party discussion of the issue before voting, and the request was granted by committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism).

Immediately after the Knesset meeting, workers' representatives met Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who told them she will do her utmost to resolve their claims while advancing the company's privatization.

Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni expressed disappointment at the delay, with the vote rescheduled for next Thursday.

Livni wants to sell the 24% stake on the basis of Bezeq's financial performance in the first

quarter. She is concerned about the delay, because to prepare a flotation, or in this case several flotations together with sales of share bundles, the authority needs three to four months, and for legal reasons the sale can only go ahead on the basis of the first quarter performance until August.

Livni also maintains that privatization and the workers' claims are unrelated. While Yehezkel agreed with her on this point, he said there is also an issue of principle involved, whereby the workers' rights must be guaranteed.

During the meeting, workers' representatives produced a document in which commitments to their rights were made by the previous government but have not yet been implemented.

Most of these promises were made by late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, former finance minister Avraham Shohat (now leader of the opposition group on the committee) and former communications minister Moshe Shahal.

Admitting the fault lay with his

own party, Yehezkel argued that now is the time to correct the errors and guarantee the workers' rights.

Following the meeting Haim Oron (Meretz) told the workers, "you must now act quickly to say exactly what rights you want protected."

After the meeting Livni admitted "there are some problems that need solving."

"We are not against the privatization," said acting Bezeq workers committee chairman Benny Goldring. "It's not appropriate to put our backs against the wall. If they do we will take the appropriate action."

As far as the sale itself is concerned, the government wants to reduce its share in Bezeq from 76% to 52%. The remainder is currently owned by the public (14%) and British telecommunications company Cable and Wireless (10%).

The government committee on privatization last week approved the sale by flotation, both here and

abroad, and the possible sale by bundles. Livni said the authority has decided it wants to float as much as possible in Tel Aviv by June or July, or August at the very latest, depending on the state of the market. If some of the sale progresses through share bundles, these will be limited to a maximum 7%.

Ophir Pines (Labor) questioned the haste of the authority and argued that Ami Erel, Bezeq's newly appointed director-general, has not had sufficient time to consider the latest developments.

Livnat expressed her hope that the finance committee will approve the sale next week.

Bezeq, currently valued in Tel Aviv at NIS 6.4 billion, employs 8,850 workers, most of whom are hired in the framework of collective agreements.

If the authority's proposals are accepted by the committee next week, an interministerial team will be set up to ensure the share offering is conducted in the nation's best interests.

First phase of Discount share offer successful

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The first part of Israel Discount Bank's current share and warrants offer, which was aimed at institutional investors, was 1.7 times oversubscribed, MI Holdings managing director Meir Yaacobson said.

Of the foreign investors, Merrill Lynch bid for the largest amount, NIS 6.4 million, in shares and warrants, he said.

The subscriptions were in the framework of the government's sale of a 17-percent stake in Discount, the country's third largest bank, where the state is bound to retain a 62% holding once the current share offer is completed.

MI Holdings, the state company in charge of privatizing the nation's banks, is expected to publish a prospectus today for the second part of the offering, and bidding is expected to be open to the general public as of next Monday.

In the first part of the sale, which was only open to institutional investors, a package of five shares, nine Series Two warrants (part of which are exercisable now and the rest in July) and seven Series Three warrants (exercisable in November) went for NIS 160.

The price was 2.6% above the minimum of NIS 156, but it could go even higher depending on the outcome of the public offering next week.

The government expects to raise NIS 607m. from the Discount sale - NIS 156m. from the public offering, NIS 42m. from an issue to the bank's workers, NIS 171m. from warrants exercised in July and NIS 238m. in November.

The offering was originally scheduled for February but was delayed by the Securities Authority, which decided to wait until the bank released its fourth-quarter debt provision figures.

The government plans to float about 10% in Leumi, Israel's second largest bank, in May.

Eli Lilly to open local subsidiary

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Eli Lilly & Co., the Indianapolis-based pharmaceutical company, announced yesterday it has decided to launch a local subsidiary.

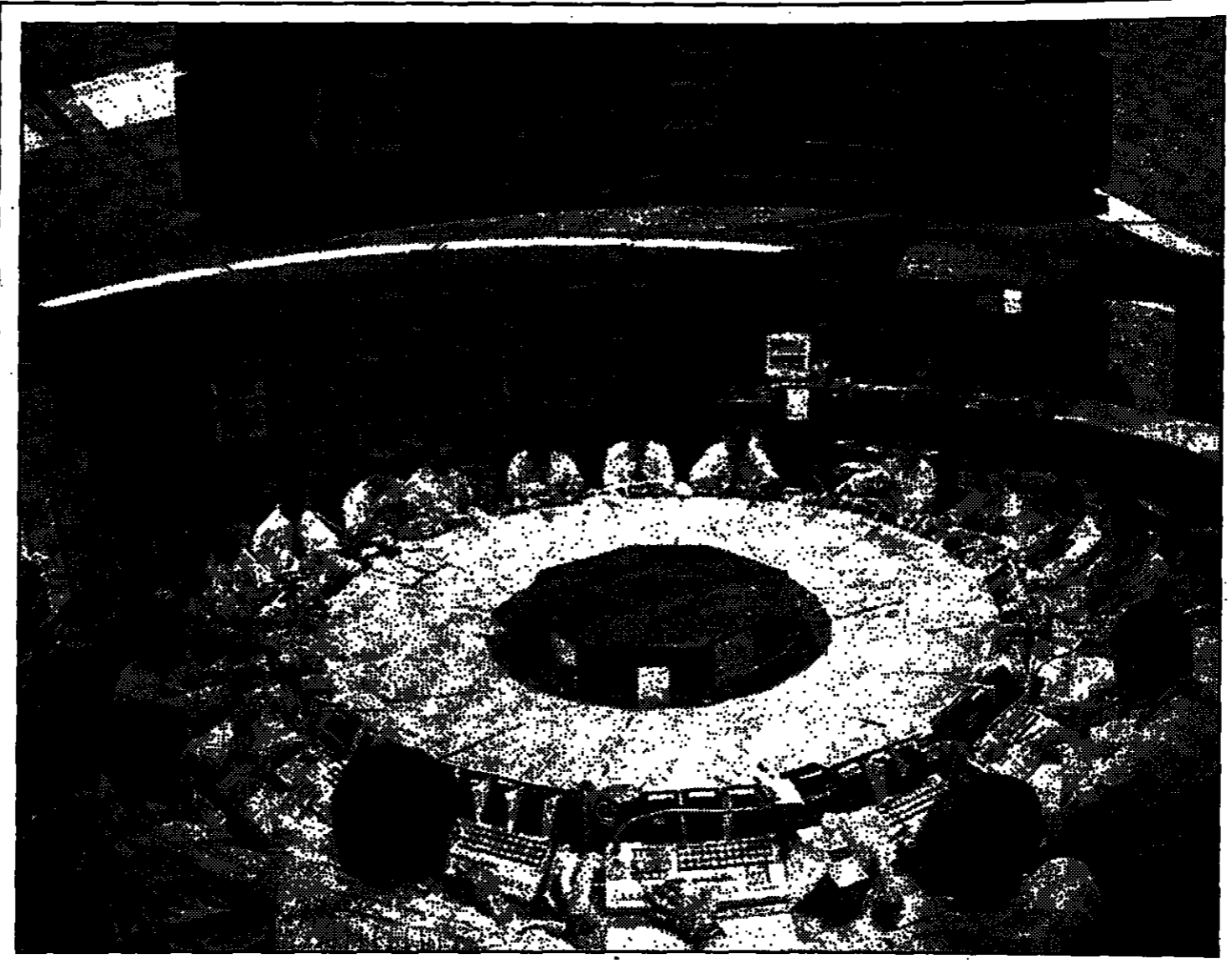
The Tel Aviv office, which is part of the company's strategy to further penetrate the Israeli market, will conduct clinical trials, as well as market and sell Eli Lilly's products.

Eli Lilly did not disclose the size of the investment it made in establishing a local branch.

The company, which is among the world's top-10 leading drugmakers, produces antibiotics, insulin, growth hormones, anti-ulcer agents and cancer drugs. One of its more famous products is psychiatric medication Prozac.

With 30,000 employees worldwide, the company also manufactures sedatives, vitamins, cardiovascular therapy medications, feed additives and other goods for livestock and poultry.

Eli Lilly's holdings include medical communications networks developer Integrated Medical Systems and medical instruments maker IVAC.



Dollar hits four-year high against yen

A quotation board flashes the dollar exchange rate over money dealers at a Tokyo brokerage yesterday. The US currency rose to 124.83 yen, its highest since February 1993, on purchases by Japanese investors and interbank traders. The market shrugged off larger-than-expected growth in Japan's current account surplus for February, dealers said. In Tel Aviv, the greenback's surge pushed the shekel to a new record low of 3.381 to the dollar.

(Reuters)

Bankers Trust, Alex. Brown in \$1.7b. merger

NEW YORK (Reuters) - US banking company Bankers Trust New York Corp. and retail brokerage firm Alex. Brown Inc. announced they had signed a definitive agreement to merge in a stock swap valued at about \$1.7 billion.

Under terms of the transaction, which was unanimously approved by both companies' boards, each Alex. Brown common share would be exchanged for 0.83 shares of Bankers Trust common stock, the companies said.

"In a single, integrated firm, clients will have the benefit of Bankers Trust's expertise in syndicated bank lending and high-yield bonds and Alex. Brown's strength in equities research and underwrit-

ing," Bankers Trust chairman and CEO Frank Newman said.

The proposed move follows closely a similar planned merger between Morgan Stanley Group Inc and Dean Witter Discover & Co. That deal, announced in February, aimed to combine Dean Witter's strong retail brokerage presence and Morgan Stanley's investment banking strength.

Analysts have said buying a retail brokerage firm gives an investment banking house an immediate and relatively inexpensive way to enter the business, instead of building a retail presence from scratch.

Shares of Alex. Brown Inc jumped at the close of last week as rumors of a possible takeover by

the bank intensified, closing up \$8.75 per share on Friday at \$53.125, while Bankers Trust shares finished the day at \$82.25, off \$0.375.

Based on the April 4-closing price of Bankers Trust and Alex. Brown's primary shares outstanding, the merger would have a value of about \$1.7b., the companies said.

On that basis, Alex. Brown shareholders would own about 20 percent of Bankers Trust shares outstanding after completion of the merger, they said.

Bankers Trust said it expected to recognize a one-time charge of about \$80m. at closing for restructuring and related costs. The deal, set to close in the fourth quarter, was expected to be tax-free to shareholders and accounted for on a pooling-of-interests basis, it said.

The firm said it expected the combined company to achieve annualized expense savings of about \$80m. resulting from the elimination of redundant operations within 12 months of the close. But Bankers Trust declined to comment on which operations would be con-

sidered redundant.

The firm declined to comment further on how much the deal would add to earnings.

"Bankers Trust and Alex. Brown believe the combined firm will generate significant additions in revenue from providing existing clients of the two firms with an expanded range of services and from the enhanced ability of the merged firms to attract new clients," the companies said in a statement.

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Payment of National Insurance Benefits Before Pessah

This month, because of Pessah, National Insurance benefits will be paid earlier than usual.

Child allowance will be paid on April 18, instead of April 20. All other benefits will be paid on April 20, instead of April 28.

The National Insurance Institute wishes you Hag Sameah

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.575
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

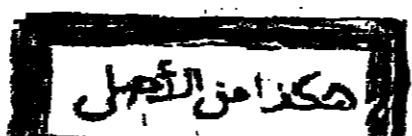
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

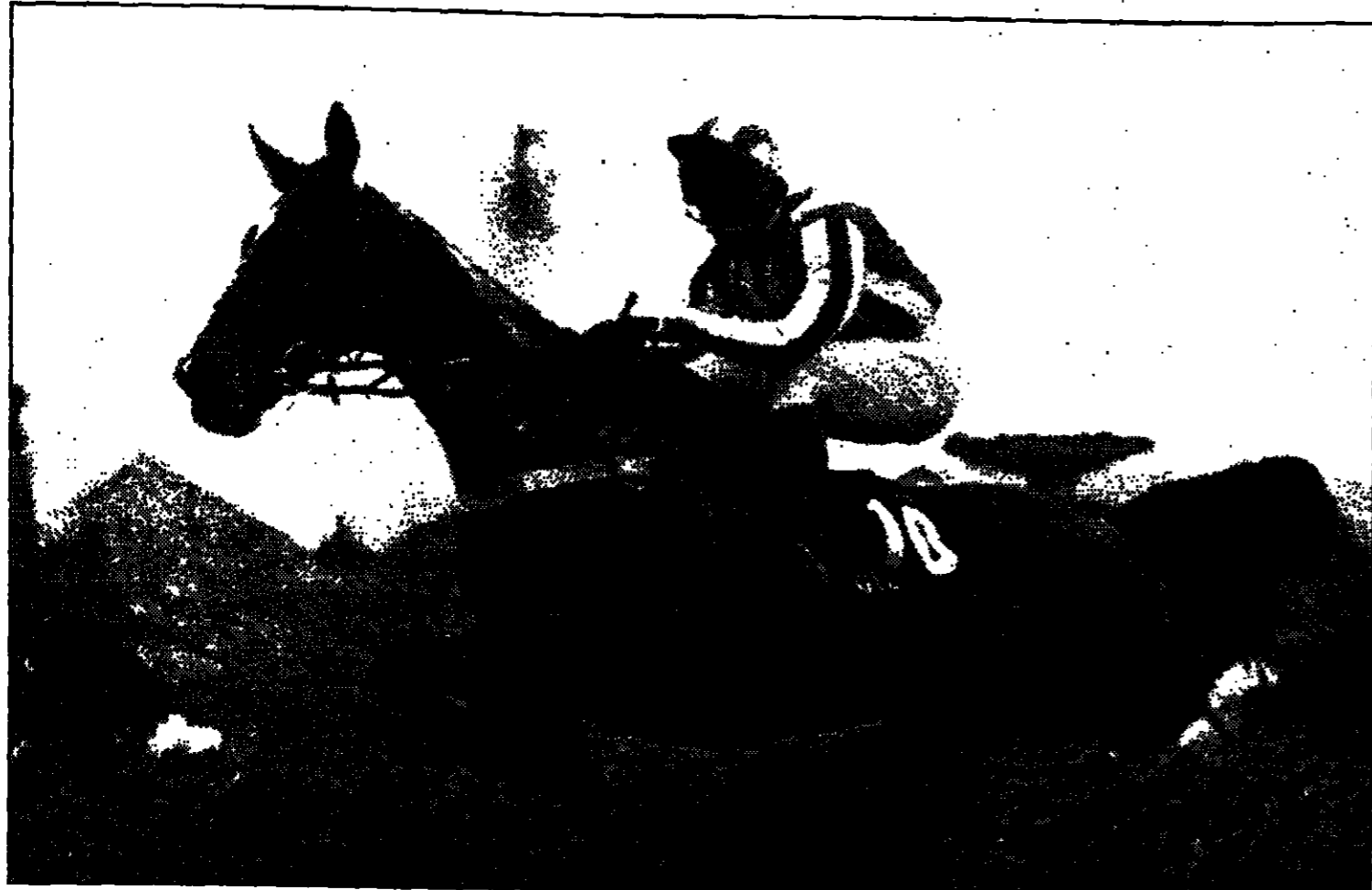
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (7.4.97)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6321	3.6907	3.28	3.46	3.6511
German mark	3.4091	3.4097	1.83	2.03	3.3910
Pound sterling	1.9997	2.0015	5.3422	5.36	1.9986
French franc	5.4852	5.4852	0.5945	0.57	0.5905
Japanese yen (100)	0.8550	0.8547	2.7180	2.72	0.8552
Dutch florin	2.6748	2.6748	1.7909	1.79	2.6982
Swiss franc	2.9982	2.9982	2.0982	2.25	2.9088
Svedish krona	0.4356	0.4356	0.4832	0.47	0.4396
Norwegian krona	0.4853	0.4853	0.5224	0.50	0.4878
Danish krona	0.5170	0.5170	0.6572	0.64	0.5212
Finnish mark	2.4061	2.4061	2.4061	2.40	2.4061
Canadian dollar	2.8050	2.8050	2.8050	2.80	2.8050
Australian dollar	0.7894	0.7894	0.7894	0.78	0.7894
S. African rand	2.7086	2.7086	2.7086	2.70	2.7086
Belgian franc (10)	1.9980	1.9980	1.9980	1.99	1.9980
Austrian schilling (10)	4.8900	4.8900	4.8900	4.89	4.8900
Jordanian dinar	0.9500	0.9500	0.9500	0.95	0.9500
Egyptian pound	3.8421	3.8421	3.8421	3.84	3.8421
ECU	2.3310	2.3310	2.3310	2.33	2.3310
Irish punt	5.2177	5.2177	5.2177	5.21	5.2177
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3950	2.3950	2.3950	2.39	2.3950

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI





RACING TO VICTORY - Lord Gyllene, ridden by Tony Dobbin, clears Beechers Brook on his way to winning the 150th Grand National at Aintree yesterday. (Reuters)

Lord Gyllene makes the running to win Grand National

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Lord Gyllene, ridden by Tony Dobbin, produced a brilliant display of front-running to win yesterday's rescheduled Grand National steeplechase.

Lord Gyllene (14-1) made all the running and won by 25 lengths from Sun Bay (8-1), the mount of Jamie Osborne. It was the first time for more than 70 years that a horse had been in front all the way.

Carnelot Knight, a 100-1 outsider ridden by Carl Llewellyn, ran on to

be third, two lengths behind Sun Bay.

The race took place under the tightest security ever seen at a British racecourse after a bomb scare meant the race had to be abandoned on Saturday.

Prime Minister John Major, breaking into his election schedule, and Princess Anne, daughter of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, attended yesterday's race.

Along with 20,000 racing fans, they witnessed a splendid display

by Lord Gyllene, an out-and-out stayer who hardly put a foot wrong.

Sun Bay kept company with the winner for much of the 7.2-km trip as the 36-strong field negotiated the 30 famous obstacles.

But from two fences out it was clear that Lord Gyllene held all the aces and, bar a fall, it was all over.

Lord Gyllene scooped a record National first prize of \$291,000 for owner Stan Clarke, who is chairman of Newcastle and Uttoxeter racecourses.

The winner is trained by Steve Brookshaw, whose late uncle Tim Brookshaw once finished second in the big race but was paralysed in a fall at Aintree in 1963.

Trainer Jenny Pitman, known as the Queen of Aintree, had a disappointing day with her duo.

Nabthen Lad finished ninth and Smith's Band, who fell at the 20th and broke his neck, was one of two fatalities in the race.

The other was Straight Talk who broke a leg at the 14th obstacle.

Jerusalem (half) Marathon runs today

By HEATHER CHAIT

It was almost the marathon that wasn't.

Until 6 p.m. yesterday, the fate of the fifth Jerusalem Marathon lay in jeopardy due to a protest by municipal workers over salary increases.

Last-minute preparations including late registration and entry lists were held up and organizers were expected to work throughout the night to catch up the backlog.

Head of the workers' committee, Danny Bonfil, explained the situation. "When the raise we had been promised months ago was not included in our salary on Sunday, I ordered the workers to suspend all preparations for the marathon."

After intense negotiations the issue was resolved when municipality's director general Ra'anan Dinur sent Bonfil a letter promising that the raises would be paid.

Last night's traditional pre-marathon pasta party at Jerusalem's Dan Pearl Hotel was rained by the controversy as Zion Turgeeman, municipal sports authority head, charged that the workers had exploited the marathon for their own ends.

Still the race will go on and thousands of runners will traverse the south-western parts of the capital from 10 this morning when the 21.1 kilometer half-marathon sets off. The 4.2km mini-marathon will follow at 10.20 a.m. and the 2.1km popular race at 10.30 a.m.

Although the route is outside the downtown area, the race is more likely to produce irate drivers than record-breaking times.

From Teddy Stadium the runners will proceed to Pat Junction, Herzog Boulevard, Ruppun Road, Nayot, Bezek Road, Mt. Herzl, Ora Junction, Manhat, Mesua Junction,

Beit Halochem and returning via the zoo to the stadium.

Organizers promise that only Bezek and Ruppun Roads will be entirely closed and that traffic disruptions will be over by 12.30 p.m.

One of the favorites is Morocco's Rashid Buhari whose best time, set this year, is 1:05. Runners from Norway, South Africa and Australia will also be at the starting line.

Nili Abramski, who set a record two years ago of 1:24:13 will be back.

"I'm feeling fine and looking forward to seeing the sights of Jerusalem," she said.

The men's course record, set by Assaf Binuro, stands at 1:09:44.

Sponsoring the race are Menhedeit health fund, Mei Eden, Osem, Dan Hotels, Tambour, Hyundai, Internet Zahav, Trafitech and Radio Jerusalem.

Agassi wins Davis Cup 5-setter as US beat Dutch

NEWPORT BEACH, Ca (AP) - Andre Agassi, handcuffed early by Jan Siemerink's serve-and-volley game, rallied for pinpoint passing shots for the victory Sunday that gave the US a 4-1 win over the Netherlands in their Davis Cup quarterfinal.

The Americans advanced to the Sept. 19-21 semifinals against Australia, 5-0 winners over the Czech Republic.

It was Agassi's 15th straight Davis Cup singles victory, putting him within reach of Bill Tilden, who won 16 straight for the US during the 1920s and early 1930s.

Agassi ended the 2-hour, 48-minute match with a crosscourt backhand for a 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory, then embraced US

captain Tom Gullikson as 5,396 cheering fans rose to their feet.

"I just needed to find my groove, and I didn't find it as soon as I should have," he said.

After sharing hugs with teammates Jim Courier, Rick Leach and Jonathan Stark, Agassi bounded back on court. He blew kisses and bowed to all four seating sections in between signaling No. 1 with his index fingers.

The Dutch came into Sunday's reverse singles matches needing two wins after Paul Haarhuis and Jacco Eltingh prevented a US sweep by winning Saturday's doubles.

After Agassi's victory, Stark routed Sjeng Schalken 6-4, 6-0 in a "dead" singles match to close out the tie.

Lemieux officially announces retirement

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Saying that he definitely will retire after the playoffs, Mario Lemieux put an end to speculation that he might consider playing another season for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"I just want to say that this will be my last year officially," Lemieux said at a banquet Saturday night.

The 31-year-old center, a five-time NHL scoring champion whose career has been hampered by a bad back and a bout with cancer, leads the league in scoring again this season with 117 points on 49 goals and 68 assists.

Lemieux, who led the Penguins to Stanley Cup championships in 1991 and 1992, caught team officials off guard with the timing of his statement.

"He's obviously indicated that over time, and we had expected an announcement, but we thought it would be after the season," club president Donn Patton said.

With four games remaining in regular season, Lemieux has 612 goals and 1,489 points to stand sixth on the NHL career lists in both categories. He also has 877 assists, 11th in NHL history.

Long European soccer season reaching finale

LONDON (Reuters) - This season's European competitions have been going on for so long that some teams were eliminated even before schools broke up for their summer holidays last July.

The likes of Latvians Dinaburg, Shirak Gyumri of Armenia and Tiligul Tiraspol of Moldova were all eliminated from the UEFA Cup at about the same time as children were building their first sandcastles on the continent's beaches.

Now, 10 months and hundreds of matches later, only 12 teams out of the 190 who set out searching for European glory survive.

They meet in the first leg of their respective semifinals this week - knowing that the rewards on offer for winning through and triumphing in next month's finals will ensure them a very happy summer holiday of their own.

Reigning European champions Juventus warmed up for their semifinal against Ajax by inflicting the biggest-ever league defeat on their arch-rivals AC Milan with an astonishing 6-1 win at the San Siro stadium on Sunday.

Virtually assured of the Italian title for the second successive year, Juventus will be especially keen to defeat Ajax emphatically over the two legs - especially as their victory over the Dutch team was secured on penalties in last season's European

Cup final in Rome.

Ajax, European champions in 1995 and bidding for a place in the final for the third successive season, have an excellent record against Italian teams winning nine of their previous 12 ties.

They have met Juventus four times in official competition, with each team winning twice.

The other semifinal pits Manchester United against Borussia Dortmund, a rare meeting against German opposition for the English champions.

Borussia are the only team from the former West Germany to have played United who won 3-2 on aggregate in the 1965-66 European Cup and 10-1 on aggregate in the 1964-65 UEFA Cup.

In fact, United have never lost to a German club. Apart from the ties with Dortmund, they also beat Vorwarts Berlin of East Germany in the second round of the 1965-66 European Cup. Out of the six games, they have won five and drawn once with a goal tally of 18-4.

Borussia have played two other English teams and won both ties, coincidentally in the same competition more than 30 years ago.

In 1966, they beat holders West Ham in the semifinal of the Cup Winners' Cup, then went on to beat Liverpool in the final in extra time in Glasgow.

Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld has spent more time in front of his television watching videos of Manchester United in the last few days than before any other European clash, but he has refused to give any details of his line-up. His biggest problem will be finding a replacement for the suspended libero Matthias Sammer.

The Germans have injury problems up front. Hitzfeld said he hoped strikers Karlheinz Riedle, who has a groin injury, and Heiko Herrlich, who has hurt his shoulder, would be fit to return to the squad for the tie in Dortmund.

This week's European action starts today when unfancied Tenerife face Schalke and Internazionale play Monaco in the UEFA Cup finals.

It continues on Thursday when Paris St Germain entertain Liverpool and Barcelona play Fiorentina in Spain in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Fiorentina were the first winners of the Cup Winners' Cup in 1961 and would love to repeat that long-ago success.

The Argentine player Gabriel Batistuta totally rejects any sense of inferiority his team might feel against the mighty Catalans. "I've never felt inferior to anyone," he said.

"Sure they have great players and lots of international experience but the real Fiorentina can beat any side.

Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke dies at 84

WASHINGTON (AP) - Jack Kent Cooke, the crusty entrepreneur whose Washington Redskins won three Super Bowls and whose personal life was the stuff of tabloid headlines, has died at age 84.

The NFL owner collapsed Sunday morning at his estate in Washington and was taken to hospital. He died 35 minutes later.

Cooke, who had a heart attack in 1973, had long been bothered by angina pain and breathing problems. Last Nov. 10, he became ill in his RFK Stadium box during a game. He spent the next five days in the hospital, where he was found to have osteoarthritis, a degenerative condition found in the elderly.

For Cooke, image was nothing - success was everything. And his success could be measured by his vast financial holdings, his NFL championships and the parade of celebrities that came calling to his stadium box.

He became majority owner of the Redskins in 1974, took over daily operation of the team from Edward Bennett Williams in 1980 and began his dogged pursuit toward making the Redskins an NFL power.

The Redskins began their rise began in 1981 with the hiring of Joe Gibbs as coach. He and general manager Bobby Beathard built a team that played in four Super Bowls and won three - in 1982, 1987, 1991.

Hingis beats Seles again

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC (AP) - Martina Hingis, the WTA Tour's top-ranked player, showed another dimension to her growing game in beating Monica Seles 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) on Sunday for the Family Circle championship.

A week after destroying Seles 6-2, 6-1 in 44 minutes to win the Lipton Championship, Hingis needed more than two hours for her sixth title this year. Her streak of 31 match victories is tied for sixth best all time, but it looked in danger when she trailed 5-0 in the match's first 14 minutes.

"I was just hoping she didn't do the same score to me as I did to her," Hingis said. "I liked last week a lot better." Hingis earned \$150,000, boosting her season's winning to more than \$1.2 million.

She faced only one seeded opponent - No. 14 Brenda Schultz-McCarthy in the semifinals - before the championship. So she looked unprepared and out of sync as the fourth-seeded Seles seized the early lead.

Hingis will take the next three weeks off and return to the tour at Hamburg in three weeks. Looming when she gets back is Graf, the injured former No. 1 who has played only two tournaments and seven matches this year.

National Hockey League Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-New Jersey	44	21	13	101	221	171
x-Philadelphia	32	22	12	100	261	201
x-Florida	33	28	18	85	213	197
x-NY Rangers	36	33	10	82	247	222
Tampa Bay	30	39	9	69	208	237
Washington	30	40	9	69	197	224
NY Islanders	28	38	12	68	228	235
Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Buffalo	39	27	12	90	227	194
x-Pittsburgh	37	33	8	82	274	264
Montreal	33	35	18	85	238	238
Hartford	30	37	11	71	211	242
Ottawa	28	36	15	71	217	228
Boston	25	44	9	59	225	287
Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Dallas	47	24	7	101	244	167
x-Detroit	37	24	17	91	244	188
x-Phoenix	33	36	6	80	228	233
Calgary	32	40	7	71	243	253
Chicago	32	34	13	77	211	204
Toronto	29	42	8	68	223	264
Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Columbo	48	22	9	102	272	196
x-Anaheim	34	33	13	81	237	229
x-Edmonton	36	36	8	80	243	233
San Jose	32	38	9	73	238	225
Vancouver	32	40	7	71	243	253
Los Angeles	26	42	11	63	205	281
San Jose	26	44	8	60	201	266

x-clinched division title
x-clinched playoff berth

Hap. Petah Tikva goes to school

By JOEL GORDIN

Hapoel Petah Tikva is to help establish soccer as part of the curriculum at one of the town's high schools, club president Meir Shamir announced this week.

The club has reached an agreement with WIZO, which runs a boarding school in the center of Petah Tikva, where youth from mainly under-privileged homes study agriculture in the afternoons after their normal day's curriculum.

At the start of the next school year, a seventh grade class will be set up in which the boys will learn not agriculture, but soccer after hours. They will be taught by coaches from Hapoel Petah Tikva's senior and youth sections.

The pupils will be picked from candidates from all over the country with the emphasis on develop-

ment towns. The plan has the backing of the Education Ministry.

Shamir stated that the club would invest about \$200,000 in the project. In addition to providing the coaches, Hapoel Petah Tikva will supply the facilities and help the boys with scholarships.

The following year, promised Shamir, the seventh graders will move up and a new class will be started. Thus, he said, the soccer school will grow and provide a valuable for nursery for the senior club.

Shamir mentioned that Hapoel Petah Tikva was in close contact with Ajax, Amsterdam, and Borussia Dortmund which has similar schemes in their respective cities. It is hoped to set up exchange programs with these prestigious schools.

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LOCAL SCENE

Walker Ladani celebrates birthday his way

By HEATHER CHAIT

For Prof. Shaal Ladani, a birthday is not synonymous with a meal at a fancy restaurant.

Ladani, professor of industrial engineering at Ben-Gurion University and a former Olympic competitor in the 50-km. walk, celebrated his 61st birthday with a touch of pizzazz - an eight-hour walk which covered 61 kilometers, one for each year.

Judo: Guy Fogel and Amit Leng had not met in competition since that fateful decision last June not to send either of them to the Atlanta Olympics.

Last week they reached the final of the national championships (65 kg class) and Fogel, coached by Moshe Pond, overwhelmed Leng, winning by ippou.

For Fogel, the win assuaged some of the bitterness lingering after the Olympic decision.

Besides this long-awaited clash, there were few other highlights.

Twenty-year-old Arik Ze'evi easily dominated the 95kg category, David Berger beat Gil Ofer in the 78kg and Einat Yaron won the girls 61kg class (Yael Arad's weight group).

Rugby: If fifteen is too many for rugby, try the seven-a-side tournament this Saturday at

Kibbutz Yizre'el. The annual competition is held in memory of Dudi Silbowitz who was a member of the national team and fell in the Yom Kippur War.

Twelve teams will compete in this end-of-season tournament which begins at 10am. If you also have a team of seven burly players and want to compete, call Milton Kaplan at 06-6598319 or 06-6598241.

Golf: The monthly medal competition at Caesarea Golf Club attracted 100 players. Zev Abraham won the A division with 73 with Ron Sandler and Arieh Gresaro one and two points behind for second and third places respectively.

TV personality Yoram Arbel had the best net of the day, a 66, in the B division with Michael Bardugo second (69) and Effie Been third (70).

Moshe Zarkover won the C division with 71, ahead of Jules Cuburnek's 72 and Zvi Joseph, also on 72 but with a higher back-nine.

Abraham Namdar took the D division with 66 with Barbara Golan on 70 and Shlomo Ferman on 71.

Tennis: Once a champion, always a champion. Yair Wertheimer, former Israeli No. 1, won the seniors tournament at Hapoel Tel Aviv courts after beating Udi Anais 6-0, 7-5 in the final of the over-35 age group.

Other winners were Michael Seia over Shuky

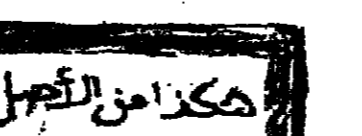
Mikdash (over-45's), Uzias Berman against Jacky Sole (over-50's), Ron Steele who beat Uzi Bonzik (over-55's) and Raoul Geller over Shalom Goldstein (over-60's).

Winning among the women were Liana Breilovsky who defeated Irit Anais (over-35's), 45's) and Noa Melovitch who defeated Hana Barak (over-55's).

Bowls: Maureen Hirshowitz and Zvi Bekker won the mixed pairs final last week, beating Gordon Silberstein and Isabel Myers 24-18 in the final.

In the annual seven-week Wingate Fives competition being held in Netanya, Ramat Gan is leading overall with 14 points after the second week. Ra'anana has 13 points and Kfar Hanaccabiah is on 12.

Money matters: While Israelis moan about taxes, the foreigners here are benefiting from reduces the tax levied on sports clubs for foreign players from 40% to 25%. The law, initiated by MK Michal Goldman (Labor), is intended to entice more players from abroad and to narrow the gaps between local and international teams.



NEWS

in brief

Court asked to open Ivry panel's hearings

Military reporters have asked the High Court of Justice to allow them to attend the closed-door hearings of the Ivry Commission investigating the February 4 collision between two transport helicopters that killed 73 servicemen. The panel has finished collecting testimony and is in final deliberations, before submitting its report to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai next week.

Arish O'Sullivan

El Al steward saves boy on flight

An El Al steward on Sunday saved the life of a nine-year-old boy on a flight from Tel Aviv to Dusseldorf, Germany, when he succeeded in prying open the boy's jaws, which had locked during an epileptic seizure.

During the seizure, the boy, who was traveling with his mother, stopped breathing and lost consciousness. After determining that there was no doctor on board, steward Efi Cohen attempted to pry open the boy's jaws, and succeeded. The boy then resumed breathing and regained consciousness.

The captain then radioed a company doctor in Israel, who advised that it was safe for the flight to continue to Dusseldorf. Doctors and an ambulance were waiting at the German airport, and took the boy to a hospital.

Itim

Netanya boy hurt in fall

A 13-year-old Netanya boy was seriously injured yesterday when he fell into a 5-meter-deep hole at a construction site at the town's seashore. The boy was on his way to the beach with his brother and a group of children when he fell into the hole. The children stopped a passerby, who summoned help. The boy was taken to Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva. Police are investigating possible negligence by the contractor, as the children said there were no warning signs posted around the hole.

Itim

Clalit strike intensifies

The strike by Kupa Holim Clalit maintenance and administrative workers, launched yesterday, will intensify today, causing cancellations of non-emergency surgery and the closing of reception offices in the health fund's affiliated hospitals. The kitchens will provide food only for patients, laundry rooms and warehouses will be closed, and technicians will repair only equipment needed for emergency. The union is demanding additional salary grades promised in 1993.

Judy Siegel

Pesticide bottles wash ashore

The Environment Ministry issued a warning to the public yesterday, after several bottles believed to contain dangerous pesticide were found washed ashore between Rosh Hanikra and Nahariya. Elik Adler, head of the ministry's maritime and coastal department, urged members of the public to report the discovery of any more of the big white bottles to the police or the department's Haifa office (04-823-1274), and under no circumstances to touch or open them. Ministry workers collected 21 bottles yesterday and sent samples for analysis.

David Rudge

Rotem gives police evidence against Nimrodi

By RAINE MARCUS

Erez Rotem, the former *Ma'ariv* journalist who gave evidence to State Attorney Edna Arbel implicating the daily's publisher Ofer Nimrodi and his lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak in irregularities, was finally summoned to give evidence to police yesterday.

Rotem has accused the two of plotting to try to appoint Avi-Yitzhak as attorney-general. Rotem left or was fired by *Ma'ariv* at around the same time as he gave evidence to Arbel. Nimrodi and Avi Yitzhak have vehemently denied his allegations. Sources have said that Rotem is negotiating a job with *Yedioth Aharonot*. Yesterday, *Ma'ariv* petitioned the Tel Aviv Labor Court to prevent Rotem from joining *Yedioth*, claiming this would be

a breach of the reporter's contract, which says that he cannot work for a rival newspaper on a similar beat for 12 months after he leaves *Ma'ariv*. The court issued a temporary injunction and will debate on the issue on Wednesday.

When the allegations surfaced, *Ma'ariv* wrote that Rotem was simply taking revenge because he was fired. Now police are examining his evidence to establish if it warrants investigation.

Channel 1 reporter Ayala Hasson, who first revealed what has come to be known as the Bar-On Affair, was also summoned to give evidence to the police yesterday.

The police have already said they are waiting for additional evidence before they present the Arbel with recommendations on indictments.

BAR-ON

Erbakan to meet Levy

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has decided to meet this morning with Foreign Minister David Levy, who will arrive for a two-day visit to Ankara with a business delegation.

Necmettin, head of the Islamic Welfare Party and a persistent critic of Turkey's ties with Israel, was believed to be wavering or trying to evade the meeting with Levy, and did not respond to requests to meet the Israeli minister. However, last night his office announced that the two leaders would meet.

Israel's Ambassador to Turkey Zvi Elpeleg yesterday accused Erbakan of ignoring his repeated requests over the past three weeks for a meeting with Levy. He said this attitude directly contradicted promises of Erbakan's senior assistants, that they would strive to strengthen the security, commercial

and political ties between Turkey and Israel.

Officials at Erbakan's office told Reuters last night that the doubts about the meeting might have been linked to the belief that Erbakan's Welfare Party disapproved of ties with Israel. "I think the speculation that the two leaders would not meet came from the idea that the Welfare wing [of the coalition] is not warm towards Israel," the spokesman said.

Foreign Ministry sources hastened to clarify that Levy did not ask for a meeting with Erbakan, and therefore had not been turned down. The Turkish Foreign Ministry, which is in charge of the itinerary as the host, must have asked Erbakan for a meeting, the sources said.

However, they noted that Erbakan's approach is not Turkey's, whose leadership and political elite all welcome the Israeli foreign minister and want to meet him. Moreover, the Turkish chief of staff also asked to meet Levy.

Levy, who will be the first high-ranking Israeli representative to visit Turkey since the change of government in both countries, will be meeting the Turkish president, foreign minister, parliament chairman and opposition chairman, and was invited to address the parliament's foreign affairs committee.

In another development Oman has refused to grant entry visas to two Israeli diplomats, AP reported yesterday. The two diplomats barred from Oman were Nissim Ben-Sheerit, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, and David Zohar, a lower-ranking diplomat, said an official in Jerusalem.

"We do not yet know whether Oman will go so far as to close our mission there. So far they have not told us they will," he said.

The decision follows recommendations by the Arab League last month that its member states suspend relations with Israel.

Hadassah doctors to strike today

By JUDY SIEGEL

Unwilling to bend to management dictates for a recovery program, doctors at Jerusalem's two Hadassah-University hospitals will hold a 24-hour warning strike - starting at 7 a.m. today - to protest proposed cuts.

The action was announced suddenly yesterday by the Israel Medical Association.

The strike will put the Ein Kerem and Mt. Scopus hospitals on a holiday schedule, requiring the postponement of non-emergency operations and the shutdown of outpatient clinics and diagnostic institutes.

The only services not to be affected are emergency surgery, oncology, dialysis and in-vitro fertilization.

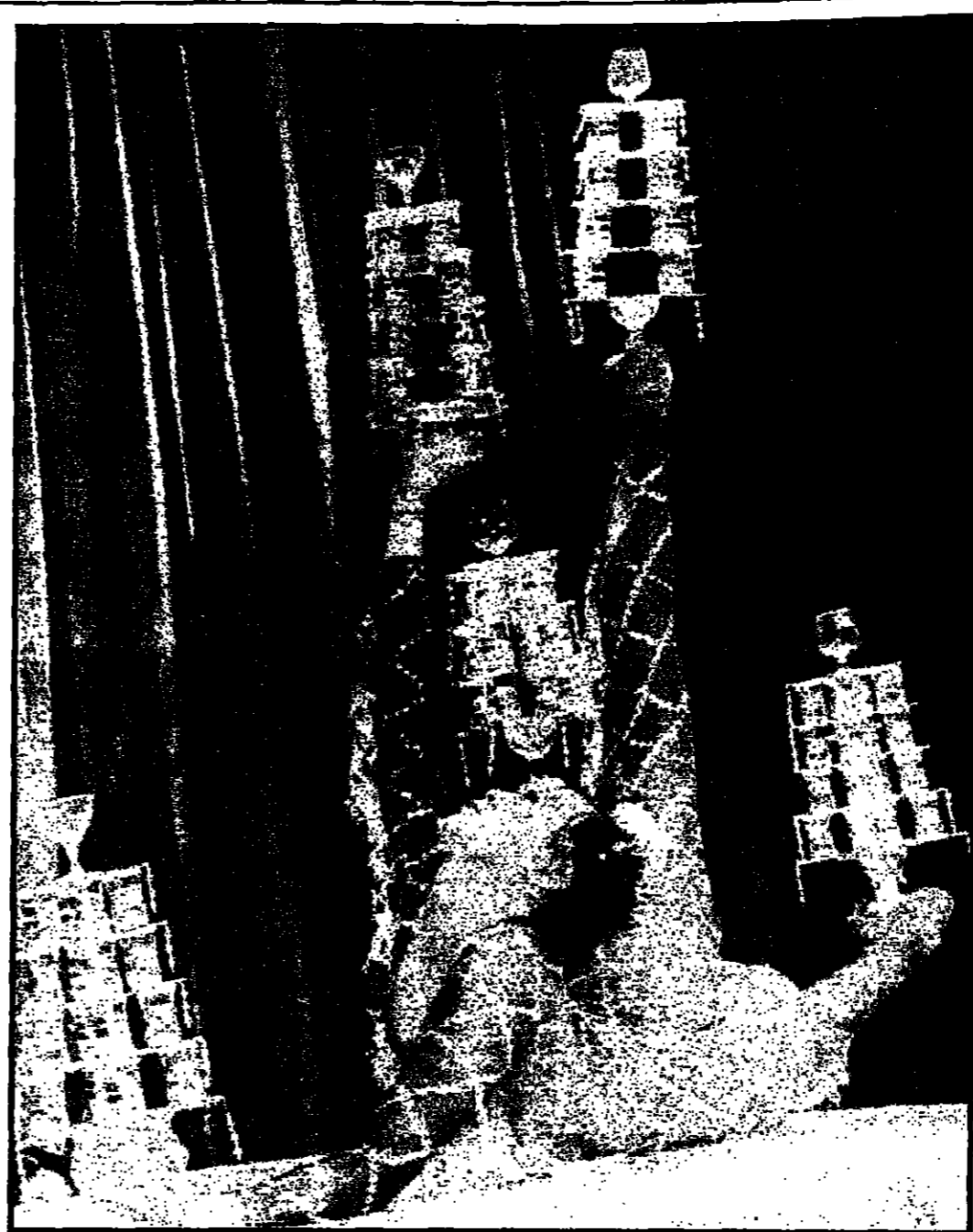
The Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), with its 5,000 staffers, has accumulated a NIS 187 million deficit, much of it due to circumstances beyond its control. The Health Ministry's capping procedure limits the hospitals to only a two-percent growth in services each year; beyond that, the hospital is not compensated, even though the increased demand and aging of the population forces the hospitals to supply services beyond the limit.

In addition, as tertiary hospitals with an affiliated medical school, they receive the most difficult cases from around the country and must provide the most advanced care.

For the first time ever, the government has offered to help bail out Hadassah: it will give it NIS 50m. — on condition that it reduce its own costs by an equal amount via cutbacks. The Hadassah Women's Organization, which helps support HMO, has also agreed to increase its donations.

The cuts are to include reducing manpower by attrition; retiring some older workers at full pension; reducing subsidies for staff meals; and a voluntary reduction of gross pay by 4% (2% net), except for workers in the lower pay scales.

The staff cutbacks could lengthen queues for treatment and reduce the level of service, although some hospital sources suggest the hospitals are overstuffed.



Easy does it

Nineteen-year-old Quan Zhi of the Beijing State Chinese Circus balances six pagodas of liquid-filled glasses topped by a wine glass - and doesn't spill a drop. The international award-winning 35 member troupe of young acrobats, jugglers and magicians, most aged 15 and 16, is here for its debut visit, which will take place throughout the country from April 14 through May 15, bringing with it some acts that have never been seen outside China.

(Text: Helen Kay; Photo: Ronen Engel/Israel Sun)

SLA, Hizbullah exchange prisoners

By DAVID RUDGE

An exchange of prisoners took place in south Lebanon yesterday when South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad released three Hizbullah gunmen from El-Khnyam jail in return for an SLA soldier.

Reports said the exchange deal, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, was carried out by the SLA itself without any IDF involvement.

According to the reports, the exchange took place near Jezzine

and from there the released SLA soldier, George Khouri, returned to the security zone.

The three Hizbullah activists were identified as Jaafar Ali Hraish and Na'am Yusef Bazzi, both of Bint J'ail in the security zone, and Mohammed Ali Hazneh, of Sribin, who had all reportedly been detained in the El-Khnyam jail since 1985.

Reports from Lebanon said that after the exchange the three travelled to Hizbullah's offices in Beirut, where they were met by senior officials of the organization, including deputy leader Sheikh Naim Kasseem.

Meanwhile, Lebanese newspapers carried statements by Foreign Minister Paris Bouez, and French and American diplomats, denying reports that Syria has frozen its participation in the Operation Grapes of Wrath monitoring group.

The reports followed the decision of the Arab League Foreign Minister's meeting in Cairo last week to freeze ties with Israel and the fact that Lebanon has not called for a meeting of the monitoring group, despite two recent incidents in which homes were damaged in villages north of the zone.

WEATHER Golan 5-18

Haifa 10-16 Tiberies 10-18
Afula 9-17
Samarie 8-13
Tel Aviv 13-15
Jerusalem 6-12
Beersheba 11-19
Dead Sea 17-25
Eilat 14-22

Forecast: Rainy from the afternoon.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH			
	C	F			
Amsterdam	-01	30	10	clear	
Berlin	-04	25	07	cloudy	
Buenos Aires	11	52	71	clear	
Cairo	12	54	22	72	cloudy
Chicago	-03	27	06	48	clear
Chopinagan	-01	29	03	53	clear
Frankfurt	-01	30	10	80	clear
Geneve	-06	21	02	36	clear
Helsinki	07	45	14	57	clear
Hong Kong	19	66	21	61	clear
Jakarta	27	81	16	61	clear
Lisbon	02	46	22	72	cloudy
London	02	46	22	72	cloudy
Los Angeles	12	54	20	68	clear
Madrid	10	50	24	75	cloudy
Moscow	-01	30	15	59	cloudy
Mumbai	-03	27	02	35	cloudy
New York	06	41	14	57	clear
Paris	02	46	17	63	cloudy
Rome	07	45	14	57	clear
Stockholm	07	45	14	57	clear
Sydney	15	61	18	64	clear
Tokyo	11	53	22	72	clear
Toronto	01	34	22	72	clear
Vancouver	03	38	09	48	clear
Zurich	03	38	09	48	clear

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance drawing were the 10 of spades, 5 of hearts, ace of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

Court rejects journalist's petitions

The High Court yesterday rejected several petitions against the State Attorney's Office by journalist Yoav Yitzhak. The petitions related to the ongoing investigation of *Yedioth Aharonot* publisher Arnon Mozes.

Yitzhak had sought to prevent certain evidence from being given to Mozes, to prevent him from being given a hearing, and to have him investigated for tax law violations. The state argued that all his petitions were either theoretical or premature, and the court agreed. It ordered Yitzhak to pay NIS 6,000 in court costs.

(Itim)

Chernobyl's Children

Stamp issued to commemorate Chernobyl disaster

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Eleven years after the worst nuclear accident in history, some 20 nations and UNESCO are issuing a stamp to commemorate Chernobyl and to raise funds to treat children from the "nuclear zone" in the former Soviet Union.

The stamp, which was issued at the United Nations yesterday, bears the slogan "A future of health and hope; Chernobyl a decade later," and the logos of UNESCO and the Habad movement's Children of Chernobyl project.

The two organizations initiated the stamp to draw attention to the health of the victims. The incidence of diseases like thyroid cancer is expected to escalate during the second decade after the disaster, officials said.

Israel and the US are not among the nations issuing the stamp, organizers said. Since the April 26, 1986, accident at Chernobyl, the health of hundreds of thousands of children in the contaminated areas of Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia has been endangered. Habad's Children of Chernobyl project has brought 1,442 children to Israel for care over the past six years.

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